

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk January 5, 2014

North & West Edition No 589

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Bringing hope

Chief executive of children's hospice Demelza on bringing light amid the darkness

MEDIA »

Tuning in to the radio revolution

How a new breed of ultra-local stations are proving a hit

NEW FOR YOU 2014 »

Making the most of 2014's potential

Special guide to how to get the best out of the new year

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Fighting the flood risks

What lessons must be learned as county battered again by storms?

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We must learn the lessons of weather's constant battering

IT HAS been difficult to feel too enthusiastic about all the promise and potential of the new year given that the county seems to have lurched from one weather warning to another this week.

And it would appear there is little let up this weekend, with, at the time of writing, the Met Office predicting heavy rains and strong winds on Sunday.

All of which makes it more important than ever we ensure we all learn the lessons of the last two weeks to ensure no further repeat.

It is becoming apparent that the UK – and Kent in particular – is increasingly prone to weather extremes.

Be it the constant battering of the wind and rain, or heavy snow, which surely lurks just around the corner, we need to stop being surprised such conditions exist and instead have systems in place to ensure we can

react and cope with whatever the heavens hurl at us.

As we highlight inside, not everyone feels the authorities and power companies acted as well as they might. We also feature a special piece penned for us by Maidstone MP Helen Grant. Her constituency covers Yalding, one of the worst hit areas.

Ironically, it is often at times of crisis a sense of community spirit is most prevalent and the role of local radio to keep everyone informed plays a key role.

Inside we take a look at the radio revolution currently taking place as an ever increasing number of community radio stations broadcasting to very specific, limited, areas take to the airwaves with the focus on community not cash.

Which just leaves me to wish you all a safe weekend

wherever you are in the county. Here's hoping the weather improves soon.



Editor **Chris Britcher**



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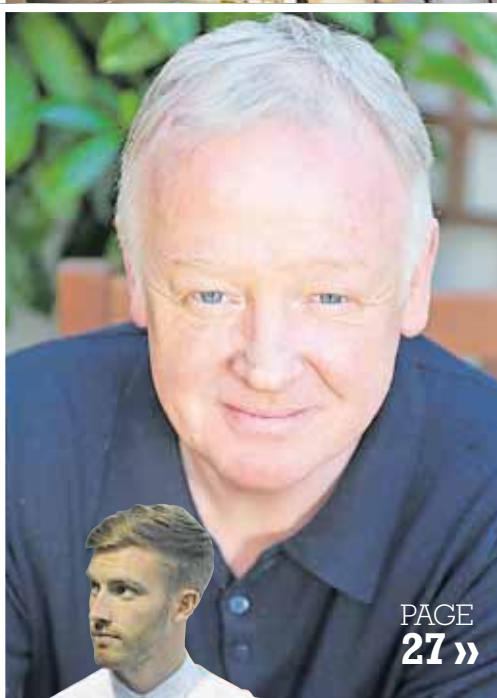
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Commuters feel the pinch as fares increase yet again

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@yahoo.co.uk

HARD-PRESSED commuters in parts of Kent this week saw the annual price for a season ticket to London rise to more than £5,000.

The eye-watering sum came despite a cap on fares introduced by the Government as part of a drive to limit the size of the annual increases. The average hike in the county's fare was by 2.8 per cent.

Previously, Southeastern could increase prices by as much as inflation plus one per cent, with an additional five per cent, if the firm chose to, on the busiest routes. It meant in previous years, long-suffering commuters were hit with hikes nearing 10 per cent on some lines.

Pressure from critics eventually led to George Osborne announcing a cap meaning operators could only increase fares by July's Retail Price Index. The five per cent 'flex' margin was also cut to two per cent.

In Dover and Deal, a season ticket is now more than £5,000 for the year and pushing £6,000 if using the high speed service. In Folkestone, the cost is just under £5,000.

Southeastern defended the increase: "There are only two



FARES: Commuters face yet another hike in ticket prices albeit smaller than in previous years due to new cap

sources of funding for the operation of the railway – Government subsidy and the passenger.

"Since 2002 it has been government policy to shift the balance of the cost of running the railway from the taxpayer to the passenger and therefore the Government requires train operators to increase fares each year."

The spokesman pointed out that £24 billion would be invested in improving rail services over the next five years, including the London

Bridge rebuild and investment in stations, track and signalling.

While some, including watchdog Passenger Focus, welcomed the cap, others called for an overhaul of the pricing formula.

Campaign for Better Transport's Stephen Joseph demanded the "out of date" Retail Price Index (RPI) calculator be scrapped and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used.

"Government has already switched to CPI for most things. Doing the same for train fares

would have little impact on railway revenues, but it would save passengers money and bring fares into line with things like public sector pensions."

John Nicholson, from the Alliance of Kent Commuters, said the railway was becoming a luxury rather than an economic necessity.

"We're paying more for a service which is not improving," he said.

"It's criminal, it's a scandal."

Labour is launching a petition on Monday demanding fairer fares.

'Unacceptable' dumping of vulnerable children in our county is to stop

COUNCILS will no longer be allowed to dump children in care miles from home in deprived areas of Kent under new rules announced by the Government.

For years, MPs and authorities have called for stringent rules to be put in place to end unnecessary out-of-area placements for looked-after children.

Coastal areas, such as Thanet, are particularly hard hit as care costs are often lower. It means London boroughs and councils – as well as some as far away as Manchester – have moved vulnerable youngsters to these districts.

But concerns were raised about the disruption caused to the children and the extraordinary pressure on Kent's resources.

Announcing the changes, minister for children Edward Timpson said: "It's totally unacceptable for local authorities to routinely place children miles away from their homes for no good reason.

"In future, only senior council

officials in charge of children's services will be able to place children out of area and only when they judge it to be the right decision for a child to be moved away from their home area."

Laura Sandys, MP for South Thanet, and North Thanet MP Roger Gale, welcomed the changes.

Ms Sandys said: "There are some great care providers in our area, but placements from outside the community rarely benefit the children in question and place an unfair burden on the people of Thanet.

"For that reason we have been campaigning tirelessly, challenging the councils which make the irresponsible placements and appealing to the Government to take robust action.

"I am very glad Michael Gove has been so responsive to our needs and is taking rigorous steps to make sure that out-of-area placements will now be publicly registered, highly scrutinised and signed off only in the most exceptional and appropriate circumstances."

KWE

PCC welcomes changes to make crime recording clearer

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has thrown her weight behind government plans to make changes in crime recording.

Policing minister and Ashford MP Damian Green announced on Monday a new crime statistics framework aimed at better reflecting how the police respond to reports of crime.

'The current 'undetected'

category will be replaced by a set of more detailed explanations of how the crime was dealt with.

Mrs Barnes said: "This is a sensible and long-awaited change that supports the police by allowing them to give a reason why a prosecution cannot take place. The police often get a hard time for not getting crimes to court, but it is the job of the Crown Prosecution Service to decide who to charge."

New Year tragedies as teen and OAP killed on our roads

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to two separate crashes which both left someone dead.

The first happened on the A28 Ashford Road in Chatham on New Year's Eve at around 4.10pm, when an 83-year-old wearing a high-visibility jacket was struck by a black Kia Picanto. He died en route to hospital.

The second occurred on the Maidstone-bound carriageway of the A229 in the early hours of New Year's Day.

Augustine Carnell, 17, from Rochester suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene after being hit by a white Skoda Rapid on Blue Bell Hill at around 3.30am.

He attended King's School in Rochester.

Met Office's latest warning for this weekend

MORE heavy rain and strong winds are set to sweep across the county this Sunday, with the Met Office issuing the latest weather warning.

And it could continue causing problems into Monday morning.

The warning was issued on Friday after flooding returned to the village of Yalding, near Maidstone, which was one of the worst hit in the UK after rivers broke their

banks on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Met Office's yellow warning for this Sunday means the public should be aware of an increased risk of both surface water and river flooding, as well as disruption to transport.

For more on the horrendous weather which has dogged the region over the last ten days and the authorities reaction to it, turn to page 14.

Thousands of 999 calls as revellers see in the new year amid stormy weather

By Marijke Cox

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EMERGENCY services were inundated with calls this week as the county welcomed in the new year, with the ambulance call centre receiving more than three calls every minute.

Typically, it is a night when the number of calls spike and paramedics worked round-the-clock to help people in need of help.

On New Year's Eve, between 10pm and 4am the following day, South East Coast Ambulance Service's (SECAmb) call centre dealt with a massive 1,160 999 calls across its region of Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

And it didn't stop there.

The new NHS 111 number, launched in April to replace the NHS Direct helpline, received around 3,500 calls on New Year's Day.

The previous day, some 1,700 calls came into the phone line from people needing medical advice.

Kent Police also admitted it had



BUSY: Services were out in force

been a "very busy night" for its officers as revellers took to pubs, clubs and house parties to see in the new year.

New Year's Eve is traditionally a busy night for emergency services with more people out drinking.

And with flooding in the west of the county and severe weather, it meant extra pressure.

Health chiefs at SECAmb admitted it had been a particularly busy Christmas and new year.

"With the additional challenge of the floods all our staff had to work extremely hard to meet the demand placed upon them," said its chief executive Paul Sutton.

"I'm extremely proud of how everyone rose to the challenge. At busy periods such as this they never fail to do so.

"I'd also like to thank the public on behalf of everyone at SECAmb for their kind words of support.

"All our staff joined the ambulance service knowing they will be working at times of the year such as Christmas but that doesn't make it any easier for them or their families."

Mr Sutton also praised the hard work of volunteers including Community First Responders, St John's Ambulance, chaplains and the British Red Cross.



ALERT: Parents in head gear warning

Fake children's hats could kill, warns regulator

DANGEROUS counterfeit hats which could strangle a child have been found on sale in the county.

The hats, made in China and retailing for between £5 and £10, are designed to be fastened under the chin. But the fake versions do not release if caught on play equipment or car doors.

Safety tests found the under-chin ties on the hats – which are of well-known characters such as Sponge Bob Square Pants and Hello Kitty – form a noose which does not break under pressure.

Kent County Council's Trading Standards officers seized some of the hats from a market stall and have now issued a warning to parents.

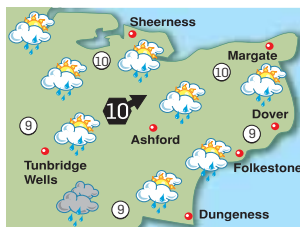
Trading standards manager Mark Rolfe said: "These hats present a very real risk of strangulation to children.

"We are very concerned they will have made appealing gifts and that any child wearing one will be in danger.

"Strangulation caused by badly-designed clothing has caused the death of children.

"We recommend that, if you have any of these hats in your home, you dispose of them immediately and report the purchase to Trading Standards."

For further advice or to report the sale of one of these hats contact Trading Standards on 08454 040506.



TODAY: Showers will clear for a time before afternoon rain. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Rain clearing to showers. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.21	7.0	13.48	6.7
Margate	02.14	5.0	14.54	4.9
St Mary's	07.18	6.0	19.42	5.6

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Wednesday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 9C	Min 5C

Hundreds finally get onto property ladder

HUNDREDS of first-time buyers in Kent have finally got their foot on the property ladder through the new government Help to Buy scheme.

The nationwide scheme allows people to get a house with a deposit as small as five per cent, with the Government offering an equity loan of up to 20 per cent towards the price of the home and the buyers securing a 75 per cent mortgage.

Not only is the scheme expected to help more people into the housing market, but is hoped to boost the economy.

In Kent, more than 350 people bought a home under the scheme in 2013 with hundreds more signing up in the hope of accessing much needed help to buy a property.

Nationally, in the first month of the scheme, which launched in April last year, more than 2,000 people had applied for a Help to Buy mortgage. That number has now trebled to more than 6,000.

Barclays and Santander are the latest banks to introduce Help to Buy products this month.

Man stuck waist high in mud as tide came in

LIFEBOAT crews were called out to help someone stuck waist-high in mud off the north Kent coast, and facing an incoming tide.

The incident happened last Sunday at Oare Creek, near Faversham.

An emergency call was received around 7pm that a man was stuck and faced a rapidly rising tide. It is understood he became stuck after falling into the mud while disembarking from a yacht moored at the creek.

The lifeboat was launched to join teams from the Kent Fire and Rescue Service which arrived swiftly on the scene.

Despite the darkness, the rescue teams managed to successfully free the man from the mud.

He was then taken by ambulance to hospital for treatment. It is not believed they were seriously hurt after their ordeal. Lifeboat crews from Whitstable, Herne Bay and Sheppey had all been summoned to assist the rescue.

Warning over criminal threat to oil supplies

RURAL homeowners on oil-fired central heating are being reminded about the risk of oil thefts as winter sets in – and are being warned to take steps now to protect their supplies.

In previous years, homes and businesses in the county have found themselves victims of such crime and it is hoped steps can be taken now to protect supplies ahead of any cold snap.

Malcolm Farrow, from the Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC), said: "This is an issue that we can't stress enough at this time of year as no one wants to run out of oil and risk going cold.

"If more people are aware and vigilant of oil thefts in rural communities, hopefully there will be fewer victims of this crime. Thefts can take place at any time of year as thieves are extremely opportunistic. However, January and February often brings the harshest weather and this, combined with people feeling the pinch after Christmas, can make the early new year a popular time for thieves to strike."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Hard-hit passengers to pay more parking costs

JUST days after being hit with yet another rise in train fares, commuters will have to pay new increased charges at some of the county's station car parks. From Monday, daily peak charges at 42 of rail operator Southeastern's 95 car parks will rise by between 10p and 20p per day. The rest of the car parks have

been frozen at 2013 prices.

Those seeing a hike include Ashford, Broadstairs, Chatham, Dartford and Sevenoaks. Southeastern insists Kent's car parks remain among the cheapest in the county.

But the hike will be unpopular, coming just days after passengers were hit with a 2.8 per cent rise on



fares pushing some season tickets prices to more than £5,000.

Every year prices are increased by operator Southeastern.

This year Government brought in a cap to keep rises under control.

All eyes on our borders as work restrictions lifted

COUNCIL chiefs will be watching closely to see whether the start of the expected influx of Romanians and Bulgarians will begin to trickle through into Kent.

Work restrictions, put in place in 2007, were lifted on Wednesday allowing them to come to the UK to live and work.

Earlier this year, KCC leader

Paul Carter commissioned a report looking at possible numbers coming to the county.

The paper revealed some 8,600 Romanians and Bulgarians are estimated to settle in Kent in the next five to 10 years, putting a potential strain on services. But the net benefit to the economy could be as much as £70,650,000.

...also

EU funding examined

COUNTY Hall officers will meet with representatives from across Kent on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the county's European relations.

Focusing on cross-Channel business, tourism, export and rural projects, the meeting will look at access to EU funding.

Community hospital bill

DOVER MP Charlie Elphicke will put forward a Ten Minute Rule motion on community hospitals in Parliament this week.

He will call for a bill to be introduced to make provision for community ownership of hospitals and to help integrate the health and social care services in those hospitals.

Health priorities outlined

HEALTH chiefs in Medway will outline their priorities for the year ahead on Thursday following a public consultation earlier this year.

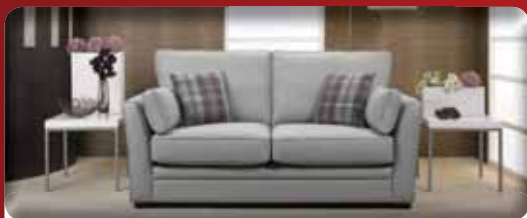
The priorities include health in pregnancy, reducing cancer death rates and improving early diagnosis of dementia.

Changes to council tax

PEOPLE receiving council tax support are being urged to comment on the proposed overhaul of the scheme in Ashford ahead of next Thursday's consultation deadline.

Plans are for a 1.5 per cent increase in contributions for 2014/15, taking it up from 8.5 per cent up to 10 per cent.

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Profile

IF YOU could bottle the enthusiasm and happiness at Demelza you'd make a fortune, says chief executive Steve Hoy.

It's not what you would expect to hear about a children's hospice, but the 55-year-old remains adamant it's a place of smiles, hope and inspiration, but of course, at times, the greatest of sadness.

Head of Demelza Hospice Care for Children for the past two years, Mr Hoy admits it was never meant to be a permanent position when he came to fill a three-month interim role back in 2011.

But so enamoured was he with the families and poorly children who use the services, he found he couldn't turn his back.

"Part way through my time as interim chief executive they advertised a permanent post and I liked it so much I applied and, luckily, here I am," he said.

It did mean, however, moving to Kent and leaving his family behind in Cheshire.

With one of his two children in the middle of an important school year and exams, he was unable to uproot him, and instead drives back at weekends to see his family.

"I have a flat in Rochester. Once my son is sorted at university I'd like my family to move down here to Kent."

Mr Hoy was no stranger to working with children and young adults when he came to the hospice site in Sittingbourne, near Sittingbourne.

"I worked in an organisation that provided youth activities, careers guidance; I worked with young offenders, teenage mums, looked-after children," he said.

"My whole career had been working with young people, but never in the hospice sense."

But he fell hook, line and sinker for Demelza and all that it stood for.

"It was the enthusiasm, the commitment of the staff and the local community in delivering the services that I found so inspiring."

The back story of the charity is one stemming from such inspiration.

It was started by Derek and Jennifer Phillips 15 years ago after their only daughter Demelza died of a brain tumour aged just 24.

She had been working at the Acorns children's hospice in Birmingham, helping organise fundraising events to ensure the hospice could continue providing care for sick children.

But she had begun feeling unwell and despite doctors dismissing the symptoms as nothing more than "women's worries", she went to hospital where the true extent of the disease was realised.

She checked into the hospital on a Monday and on the Friday she died.

“People think of a hospice as being a sad place, and obviously at times it is very sad, but if you were to walk in and feel the enthusiasm you'd be surprised”

Steve Hoy,
Demelza's chief executive

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



Picture: ADY KERRY

Bringing light to families in their darkest of hours

Steve Hoy, head of Demelza Hospice Care for Children, talks to **Marijke Cox** about the inspiring staff and families who keep this charity rooted firmly in the hearts of the county

On the day of her funeral, her parents travelled up to Birmingham from the south east and were invited to Acorns for a memorial service.

It was here they realised that a children's hospice was not just a place of

sadness, but actually of understanding and support.

They saw there was nothing like that in the south east region, nowhere to help terminally ill children die with dignity or to help those with

life-limiting diseases; or for the families to be supported through such a traumatic event.

And from there Demelza was born. "Derek had a vision and now we're celebrating our 15th birthday.

"He lives in Southampton now, but he's still very much involved."

From starting out in Sittingbourne, Demelza and its services have since expanded to become one of the region's most high-profile and popular charities – only too aware that as it relies on donations, it must remain keenly in the public eye.

"When we opened we had eight bedrooms here in Sittingbourne and then five years ago we opened our Eltham hospice in south east London and that's got six beds.

"Then we built two more beds and a hydrotherapy pool here in Kent, so now, in total, we have 10 beds in Kent, and six in Eltham," he said.

In south London, community-based nurses also visit sick children and in East Sussex there is a hospice-at-home service, where medical professionals administer care in the child's own house.

It is hoped this can be extended across Kent.

Mr Hoy adds: "People think of a children's hospice as being a very sad place, and obviously at times it is very sad, but if you were to walk in and feel the warmth and enthusiasm of the staff and the families you'd be surprised."

The focus of Demelza is family through and through. And there is a particular emphasis on siblings.

The families, as well as brothers and sisters, are able to stay without the daunting and often upsetting atmosphere of a hospital ward.

"If a child is born with a complex condition and has to stay in hospital for a long time sometimes those hospitals will ask us to become a step-down facility," explains Mr Hoy.

"We will become the first place the baby comes to having never been home.

"If you're a very poorly baby you're going to be surrounded by monitors and alarms and all sorts of lines going into the body and often they won't let the brothers and sisters onto the end-of-care ward or when they do let them, it's just one at a time.

"When people come here it's much more of a big home and, yes, while it's got all the care and the nurses, and technological support and medication, in the bedrooms they can have teddy bears, they can put pictures up on the wall. It's where the family can be a family for the first time.

"We have huge lounges where families can sit and eat together at breakfast, lunch or dinner and a big family table. We have chefs who cook for them or the families can use their own lounge and kitchen upstairs to cook their own food or get takeaways.

"We do a lot of work with the siblings who can be a little bit overlooked as their parents' attention is focused on the child who is very poorly.

"We do what we call sibling activity days where we'll run days out to the beach or the zoo.

"We run a youth club for siblings, we have a parent forum where parents can come together and talk about their issues, and more recently we started a grandparents' group."

That support mechanism is, Mr Hoy says, crucial.

"None of the families chose the life they've been given to have a very poorly child, but they have to learn to cope with it.

"We try and provide support and it might just be about getting a grant from the local authority to help fund turning a room downstairs into a bed-



SITTING PRETTY: Steve Hoy, chief executive at Demelza, was amazed by happy environment at children's hospice

turning a room downstairs into a bedroom or to try and get money for a new washing machine if they can't afford it. It can be for all sorts of things.

"A lot of the nursing staff we have includes counsellors, play therapists, music therapists, art therapists and they can all provide support; not just for the person they're caring for, but the siblings and parents as well.

"We recently recruited an art therapist who's been doing some fantastic work with some mums to develop communication to show how they're feeling about what they've gone through."

As enthusiastic as he is about the positivity of the charity, many of the children they look after are terminally ill and will not survive.

"It's never easy, even when we know it is likely to happen," he said.

"The care teams are very professional and they support the family through that difficult period afterwards. We provide a lot of bereavement support.

"I'm always amazed at the professionalism of the team we've got – they carry on and look after the family.

It's clear to see that one of the most inspiring things for Mr Hoy is the 240-strong staff and 1,300 volunteers.

"It's amazing really – the value of those 1,300 volunteers equates to 70 additional staff costing nearly £1 million. Their commitment and enthusiasm is brilliant.

"The majority give their time in our shops. We've got 19 shops, and on average each shop needs about 40 volunteers a week – they come in for two or three hours and most are open seven days a week.

"Then we have volunteers in the gardens, in the finance team, in catering, human resources – you name it, every department we've got volunteers working for us."

And the work of the volunteers has not gone unnoticed.

Last year the charity won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Mr Hoy said in the last 18 months more and more young people have also been coming forward to give their time for free to the charity.

"They want to put something back, they also want to put something on their CV, but once they've been here, they don't want to leave, they're really committed to what they do," he said.

"The age profile has often been older people who have retired: for example people who worked in IT who don't want to do that anymore and want to dig a garden instead.

"We've got someone here who's worked in a very senior position in a city bank and he comes and helps our finance team.

"I mean, we always need more; there's always a big appeal for more volunteers and more stock for our shops and those are two of the big things which help keep us going."

Like most organisations, the charity itself has not escaped the pressures of the economic downturn.

But the generosity of local people and businesses has ensured the charity keeps its head above water.

"We get very little state funding, but the charity has really grown due to the commitment people had to develop what was originally a very local charity, which has now spread across Kent and parts of south London and East Sussex.

"Lots of the original funding came

from people in the Sittingbourne area.

"We get fantastic support from all sorts of people; from those who can afford to give a £1 or £5, to people who can give very large donations, as well as support from businesses."

Mr Hoy said this generosity has helped make the Sittingbourne site a beautiful place for sick children to come.

A new play area with a galleon, called HMS Demelza, was opened by Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans as the latest addition to the site.

"The children who come to stay here said what they wanted on the galleon.

"So, for example, we've got a ramp that goes up onto the first deck because often people who are in wheelchairs don't get up very high to see out of a first floor.

"Unless you've got a stair lift you don't really see a perspective across the hills. It was the kids who said they wanted to do that, they designed it.

"Then we had a small capital appeal where we asked people to support us and literally within a matter of months local business people had donated either time or materials or wanted to buy particular pieces of equipment – so, for example, we wanted a roundabout that you could put a wheelchair on and a swing where you could do the same."

Aside from enhancing the Sittingbourne site, the charity is also looking into expanding its at-home services across the county.

"The trend is for more people wanting care in their home, so we're going to provide more services, if we can afford to, in their homes," he said.

"When a child comes to stay here you just can't believe the amount of kit that comes with them; their drugs, apparatus to maintain breathing or for feeding them, various things like that. You'll see people arrive and they've got a small minibus and they come with a wheelchair and then they've got a trolley where they bring in all their clothes and toys but also their medical needs.

"It's an effort to get people to come here so we want to go out to them, provide day activities, maybe hire a community centre and maybe work with children doing music therapy or youth club-type activities.

"We're really keen to do that and want to work closely with Kent County Council and health organisations to identify where we can do things together, using their premises, putting our staff alongside their own staff, to work in the community."

With Kent being such a big county, Mr Hoy said this type of work is crucial.

"There are a number of children who live in the coastal areas, so places like Dover and Deal, that we want to provide more outreach activities for at weekends and in the week."

But would he consider another hos-

“ We went to Spain and recruited nurses from there, bringing them over. We may go back in spring to see if there are more nurses we can bring over ”

Steve Hoy, on how Demelza is getting around nursing shortage



A DEMELZA TEEN

Lucy is one of the children supported by Demelza. Here is her experience of her first day at the hospice:

WHEN I think back to my first days at Demelza, I'll be honest... I don't remember much, but what I do remember is that horrible nervous feeling you get when you're about to go into the unknown.

Well, imagine that, multiplied by the number of staff you know are waiting to welcome you, the fact that you have quite a complex disability you're only used to your parents dealing with, and the most basic and obvious thing of all... you're only 12!

While my family rallied round to unload my luggage, I just stared. This was Demelza Children's Hospice? My imagination had been running riot on the journey to Sittingbourne and not in a good way.

Nurses running round, plain sterile white rooms from floor to ceiling, how could a hospice be any different from a hospital? I mean, the words are practically the same.

We signed in at reception and the doors magically opened to welcome us. I was still slightly nervous, but I could feel the muscles in my face start to strain – I couldn't help but smile.

Well, there were nurses... but they were playing with the children. And the colours; pictures and artwork done by the children all around the walls, children playing with toys on the floor and sitting with carers on the settee reading stories, music coming from the kitchen.

This was definitely not what I was expecting. I spent the remainder of the day getting to know my allocated carer (every young person at Demelza is allocated a carer on a one-to-one basis for the day) and some of the other children and young people. I had a lot of fun.

Then the evening came. It was quite hard at first, letting someone I'd just met get me ready for bed, but my parents were there to give guidance, especially with my equipment.

The first night was strange. I'd been expecting it to be quite noisy. Sure, there was the occasional footsteps and murmurs from the care team office but, really, I only heard that because I was in the room next to the office.

Pre-admission I'd requested I be put in the closest room to the office as, because of my breathing apparatus, I was worried that no-one would hear me should I need anything.

I drifted off to sleep and the next morning I felt much better. My family asked the care team what sort of night I'd had – and that was the first and only time I let them stay the night.

CELEBRITY STATUS: Chris Evans has visited the hospice, while artists including McFly, above, and Katherine Jenkins, below, performed at Music on the Hill

Stars play support role

DEMELZA is not short of support from celebrities wanting to get involved in the charity's work.

Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans has brought his family to Sittingbourne and others including singer and reality television star Peter Andre, TV and radio presenter Dave Berry, Bucks Fizz star Cheryl Baker, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, former figure skating champion Robin Cousins, and BBC's Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman, who has a dance school in Dartford, have

all become involved.

"Len comes on site quite a bit and he's fabulous with the children and families. Cheryl Baker, Dave Berry – they give up so much time," said Mr Hoy.

"You see the kids' eyes light up. They love it."

In addition, Demelza has been behind Music on the Hill which helps to raise money for the hospice – along with other charities – and has included performances from the likes of McFly and Katherine Jenkins.



pace, like that in Bobbing, in another part of the county?

"Kent is such a big county that the travel to here can be long and complicated, but if you were to put another hospice somewhere else, you'd only dilute what happens here (in Bobbing) and to maintain buildings, staff and nurses would be a challenge.

"Thankfully there aren't that many children who have life-limiting and life-threatening conditions."

The charity looks after 800 families across its three areas.

This isn't all sick children, but includes families who have lost a child and who need support during "wobbly moments".

"Sometimes we help them on a frequent basis, but other times when they just need someone to talk to when they are finding things hard," said Mr Hoy.

While he is positive about the charity's future, he admits there are challenges they are trying to overcome.

Just last month, it was revealed the UK was suffering from a chronic shortage of nurses – a problem expected to continue over the next three years.

"There's a national shortage of palliative care nurses and children's nurses possibly because we're not training enough in the country to meet the need as people have begun to

retire out of the profession," he said.

"I think in nursing in general there is a shortage of training places. Palliative care nurses are a very small proportion of the number of nurses who are trained and we're all living longer and therefore the number of people with palliative care needs are increasing substantially.

"I think training has not kept up with the demand.

"We really struggle to recruit nurses and so quite recently we've been advertising in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

"We actually went to Spain and recruited some nurses from there, bringing them over to Sittingbourne.

"We may go back in the spring to see if there are more children's nurses we can bring over.

"We always used to recruit highly experienced nurses, but we're putting programmes into place where we can take on newly qualified ones, just coming off training courses. That's how we're hoping we'll fill the gap."

Mr Hoy said they have less trouble recruiting at Demelza in London where many nurses are already based at hospitals such as Great Ormond Street, the Royal Marsden and Evelina Children's Hospital.

"There are a lot more nurses we can attract to come and work for us in Eltham. In Kent, the hospitals are

quite spread out and so nurses are spread out around those hospitals as well."

Another challenge for the charity, Mr Hoy said, was ensuring there was support for young adults.

Demelza currently provides services up to the age of 19.

It's a difficult age in terms of where to provide care – in an adult hospice or at one catering for youngsters.

"To be fair, other hospices are changing considerably, but if you're 18 in an adult hospice it doesn't always offer the sort of things you might like to do and there aren't many other 18-year-olds that go there," he said.

"The average age of an adult hospice is much older than 18 or 19 so we don't feel it's appropriate for them.

"Our trustees have had a debate for a long time about this and they've decided we should continue to offer support to young adults up to the age of 25.

"So we're looking to see what we can provide for the 18-25s."

A young person's 'reference' group made up of children and young adults is being set up to help shape future services.

"We will consult with them on what they would want or what we don't currently provide or what we can improve

on. That's quite exciting."

For Mr Hoy, ensuring sick children and their families receive the best possible care and support embodies everything he does.

So what spurs him on?

"There are so many inspirational stories; when you see what families have to contend with in terms of supporting very poorly children in their own domestic situations and then at the same time supporting other children, so the siblings, to maintain a normal life, I think that's really humbling.

"I think people who go the extra mile to donate funding or activities for us, that is humbling as well, that people will give so much of their time and money in order for the charity to continue.

"The number of people who arrive with presents or gifts or donations – again, it's wonderful.

"The 1,300 volunteers, every one of them does it for free. They want to do this.

"The whole thing is a very humbling experience."

He adds: "You come to work and you never really don't have a smile on your face because while it's a tough world economically, when you see the families who come here and the support they get then you can see you're doing a good job."

Recognition of our great and good in New Year's Honours

De Haan given knighthood as Queen rewards stars, teachers and charity workers, writes **Chris Britcher**

A HOST of famous faces with roots in the county will be heading to Buckingham Palace later this year after being recognised on the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Among them will be former Saga boss and philanthropist Roger De Haan.

He was knighted and becomes Sir Roger after being recognised for his education and charitable work both in Kent and overseas (see box).

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, became a CBE for services to local government.

It will come as a boost as he sets out on a year which is likely to bring huge challenges as the authority looks to balance the books against further central government cutbacks.

Actor and performer Michael Crawford – who shot to fame as Frank Spencer in BBC's *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* and was a star in *West End* and Broadway musicals – also received the CBE for charitable and philanthropic services. He grew up on Sheppey with his mother and attended school in Bexleyheath.

TV and radio personality Sandi Toksvig, who has a house in Herne Bay, received an OBE for services to broadcasting.

Others picking up awards included:

ORDER OF THE BATH

■ John Pullinger, librarian and director general of information services at the House of Commons. For services to Parliament and voluntary service to the community through Great Culverden Park Ltd in Tunbridge Wells.

CBE

■ Haydn Evans, headteacher, Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School



HIGH REGARD: Radio and TV presenter Sandi Toksvig, KCC leader Paul Carter and Janet Tootal all received awards

in Tower Hamlets, for services to education. He lives in Tunbridge Wells.

■ There was a CBE too for Jeffrey Mitchell, lately head of common law claims and policy at the Ministry of Defence. He lives in Rainham and received the award for services to defence.

■ Vet, Professor David Morton, from Romney Marsh, picked up a CBE for services to the UK international veterinary profession, especially animal welfare and ethics.

■ Trevor Pearce, former director general of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, also picked up a CBE for services to law enforcement. He lives in Gravesend.

■ The same medal also went to Westerham's John Smith, pro chancellor and chair of the University of Birmingham and lately chair of the Student Loans Company.

OBE

■ There was an OBE for Martin Stevens, from Gillingham, for services to rugby league.

■ John Fassenfelt, lately chairman of

the Magistrates' Association, from Borden, received an OBE for services to administration of justice and the community.

■ Cranbrook's Dr Amelia Fletcher, chief economist of the Office of Fair Trading, picked up the award for services to competition and consumer economics.

■ There was recognition too for Roland Gooding, headteacher of the Valence Special School in Westerham, for services to education.

■ Terrence Riley, chief executive of the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust and chair of the British Deaf Association, also collected an OBE for services to broadcasting for deaf people. He lives in Ashford.

■ Tunbridge Wells' Anissa Toscano, a consultant at the Department for International Development, received OBE for humanitarian services.

MBE

■ Mary Berg, from Canterbury, was awarded an MBE for voluntary services to education, heritage and charity

in the cathedral city.

■ Alice Boxall, from Greatstone, secured an MBE for voluntary and charitable services to heritage in the county.

■ Farrier Thomas Burch, from Ashford, received his award for services to horse welfare in the UK and overseas.

■ Chair of the Kent branch of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Edward Chantler, received an MBE for services to farming and rural communities in the county. He lives in Maidstone.

■ Warwick Hawkins, from Folkestone, received the award for services to interfaith relations as part of his role in the faith and participation team at the Department for Communities and Local Government.

■ Anthony Kemp, vice chairman of the British Association for Immediate Care, collected an MBE for services to pre-hospital emergency care. He lives in Tunbridge Wells.

■ There was an MBE for Cranbrook's Carl Meewezen, deputy director of management information at the Cab-

inet Office for services to government efficiency.

■ For services to business and digital media, there was an MBE for Michael Murphy, who lives in Knockholt.

■ Marion Regan, owner of Maidstone's Hugh Lowe Farms, also got the award for services to the fruit and vegetable industry.

■ Kent County Council member John Simmonds, from Whitstable, collected award for services to local government.

■ There was delight too for lifeboat crew member Eric Stokes, from Dover, who received an award for services to lifesaving and lifeguarding.

■ Faversham's Elizabeth Tullberg will pick up an MBE from the palace for services to the community in Swale.

■ Leslie Watling, from Larkfield, also received an MBE for public service.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL (BEM)

■ Picking up a British Empire Medal (BEM) was Barbara Bradley, recognising her services to the community in Horton Kirby.

■ As did Alan Castle, founder of the Tenterden Folk Festival, for services to music and heritage.

■ There was a BEM too for Michael Dunning, from Whitstable, who is chairman and trustee of the Brunswick Youth Club in Fulham and received the award for services to young people.

■ Michele Jones, field officer for integrated youth services at Kent County Council also received the award for services to young people in Kent.

■ Chairman of the Faversham Municipal Charities, Andrew Osborne, was named for services to Alms House sheltered accommodation.

■ And West Malling's Janet Tootal, event organiser of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, received a BEM for services to Battle of Britain veterans.



ARISE, SIR ROGER: PHILANTHROPIST'S GOOD DEEDS

IN OCTOBER 2004, Roger De Haan oversaw the sale of the company his father had built up to be not only one of the county's biggest, but which had capitalised on an enormous market.

Saga's focus on the over-50s used to attract ridicule. But as it grew and grew, the firm, built up by Sidney De Haan, turned into a power house.

By the time it sold in October 2004, Roger De Haan – who had complete ownership having bought out his brother's shares for £80m two years before – pocketed an incredible £1.2 billion.

For most, this would be a ticket to the nearest Caribbean island. For Mr De Haan – or Sir Roger as he is now – it gave him the capital to help invest in the community which his

firm had tapped into for staff and support over the years.

He had already invested many millions into education and charity endeavours prior to the 2004 sale – which, later that year, would see him collect a CBE.

Since leaving Saga, he has devoted considerable time and resources to a wide range of philanthropic projects, both in Britain and overseas, in areas including the arts, education, health, sport, heritage and regeneration.

Many of his regeneration efforts are focused on his home town of Folkestone, endeavouring to make it a better place in which to live and work.

It is due to his investment which saw Folkestone's Creative Quarter

come alive – regenerating parts of the town which many feared could never recover.

Through his Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, he has invested in schools – the Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate and the Folkestone Academy – and recently spent £7m on revamping the sports facilities in Cheriton Road.

Central to his long-term plans is a complete regeneration of the harbour and former Rotunda seaside site.

His investments are always based on clear thinking. He will invest, but only if a project has a clear route to becoming self-sustainable and can benefit the wider town.

In addition, his trust has also provided substantial support for a

programme, run by the South African Red Cross, which provides relief and health education for people affected by HIV/Aids in KwaZulu Natal.

This project has helped more than 70,000 people in the last six years and Sir Roger sits on the management committee which oversees it.

Mr De Haan, who was holidaying in Switzerland when the public announcement was made, issued a short statement.

It said: "I feel privileged to receive this honour and am proud of the impact now being achieved by many of the arts, education, health, sport and community projects that I and my charitable trust support."



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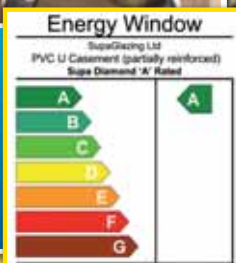
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Too little, too late as flood defence talks now a priority

As communities are left to count cost of damage left by recent flooding, authorities organise urgent talks for future emergencies, writes **Marijke Cox**

DEMANDS have been made for round-table talks to plan crucial flood defences in parts of Kent as families this week came to terms with the major devastation caused over the festive period.

Around 100 families were forced to abandon their flooded homes as the converging rivers of the Beult, Tiese and Medway burst their banks on Christmas Eve following severe storms and heavy rain.

Water flooded down the streets of Yalding, near Maidstone - one of the worst hit areas in the county - and in Tonbridge, Edenbridge and East Peckham, with helpless residents only able to look on in despair.

Of those rescued, six families had to be evacuated on Christmas Day and a further six on Boxing Day.

Communities rallied round, with kind-hearted volunteers and members of the local Sea Scout branch using canoes to help people through the flood water with their belongings.

The coastguard joined a Kent Fire and Rescue Service boat team to evacuate 76 people from the Little Venice Caravan and Marina Park in Yalding.

And charity group the Salvation Army was on-hand to ferry people to a local leisure centre.

Prime Minister David Cameron made an urgent visit to Yalding - which experienced severe flooding in 2000 - where angry residents criticised the response of government agencies saying they had been left without rescue or help for a day.

Erica Olivares told Mr Cameron she was "absolutely disgusted" and that they had been "literally abandoned".

Tens of thousands of homes across the county were also left without power and by Boxing Day, 5,000 were still waiting for electricity.

Eventually - a week after the lights went out - the power came back on.

While east Kent remained relatively unscathed, it was the west of the county left picking up the sodden pieces caused by the recurring stormy weather, with Tonbridge and Maidstone the worst hit areas.

Now, as families start the huge clear-up, calls at senior level are being made for talks to take place between government agencies and authorities to ensure adequate flood defences are put in place for the future.

Maidstone MP Helen Grant said it must not take another flood for something to happen.

"People don't want political rhetoric, they want action," she told KoS.

"We have got to look at the flood defence system. There was an interesting report in 2009 by the Environment Agency in which it

made a number of proposals about what could be done, such as the strengthening of the flood walls of the embankment.

"What I want to do is get all the appropriate organisations together for a round-table meeting so we can look at this 2009 report.

"It's 2014 and things have moved on, there will be other things, new technology.

"We must not wait until the next flood."

She vowed to get a meeting in place early this month.

Maidstone Borough Council threw its weight behind her calls.

Leader Chris Garland told this newspaper: "The council will look to see what it can do, along with Kent Council Council, to work with the Environment Agency to improve flood defences for our borough."

The Environment Agency said it was continuing to help communities affected by the flooding and was looking at potential options for the future.

Kent and south London area manager Andrew Pearce said: "We are setting up meetings with Kent County Council and the chair of the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to look at how to progress schemes that would benefit Yalding and the surrounding villages."

He said the agency was also continuing to monitor the forecast and was ready to act if needed.

Mrs Grant said lessons needed to be learned from this latest catastrophe.

"We need to look at everything," she said.

"Messaging and communication from the electricity company to customers was a big problem. Some people had no information; others received inaccurate or misleading information.

"UK Power Networks accepts it could have been better. It needs to improve its database so it can get in touch with customers in the right way."

Mr Cameron has promised a "complete review" of the situation.

Matt Rudling, director of customer services at UK Power Networks, stressed that bosses would be reviewing what improvements can be made in the future.

He said the weather had caused widespread damage to power lines meaning it took longer to reconnect supplies.

"Many staff gave up their holidays to repair extensive damage, volunteer in the extra call centres we opened on Christmas and Boxing Day or went out into the communities affected with updates," he said.

"We moved engineers south from the east of England to help local repair crews, arranged hundreds of Christmas dinners and provided hotel accommodation and takeaways for the



QUESTION TIME: Prime Minister David Cameron made an urgent visit to Yalding, one of the worst hit areas in the UK, to speak to residents after floods caused havoc and damaged homes

most vulnerable customers where possible."

But for flood-hit areas, the power wasn't the only problem.

Yalding Parish Council said some properties had been devastated by flood water.

The authority stressed, however, that community spirit had been "amazing" with people taking in families for Christmas and volunteers rescuing people in canoes.

One resident pointed out there had been "a lot more hi-vis jackets" since the Prime Minister visited on Friday, something Maidstone council disputes.

Council chiefs said staff had worked throughout Christmas finding homes for flood victims, checking if buildings and trees were safe, providing sandbags and keeping residents updated.

A spokesman said: "The council worked with emergency services, Kent County Council and other partners to evacuate homes at risk of flooding.

"It provided a rest centre on Christmas Eve and found temporary accommodation for everyone who needed it – 22 households in total, mainly from Yalding.

"On Christmas Day the council sent sandbags to protect the electricity sub-station at Fairmeadow to safeguard power supplies in the town.

"The priority was to protect vital infrastructure and the most vulnerable homes including Yalding, Headcorn and Maidstone High Street, where they were most needed.

"We worked with UK Power Networks, identifying properties and vulnerable people without power and urged the company to give priority to restoring power to our residents suffering floods and power cuts.

"Officers worked throughout the Christmas holiday to keep our website, Twitter and Facebook pages up to date and responding to requests for information."

The authority said that as part of the major clean-up, workers would be collecting contaminated and ruined furniture, carpets and goods free of charge.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has also been on hand to help stricken residents.

Leader Nicolas Heslop said: "The council deployed nearly 100 staff, many coming in whilst on annual leave, running rest centres, giving advice on the telephones, supporting emergency services, updating information on our website and tweeting.

"We supported 44 residents at our rest centres. In addition, a number of our contractors are providing staff and resources to help in the clear-up.

"The council is now helping residents to recover from the flooding by disposing of damaged items, once their insurance companies have given them the go-ahead to do so."

Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Maidstone, Jasper Gerard, criticised the Environment Agency for not declaring a severe flood warning.

"I also want to know why the warning period was so short," he said. "We all recognise these decisions have to be made very quickly, but multi-agency emergency planning had been ongoing for several days in advance of the Christmas Eve storm. Responders from the public and voluntary sectors worked extremely hard to deal with the crisis and I am sure everyone feels immense gratitude to them for working so hard in such challenging conditions.

"However, given the recent history of flooding at Yalding, and other areas such as Collier Street and central Maidstone, we need to urgently review whether available personnel and assets were sufficient to deliver the level of specialist planning, training, exercising and response that is required, and examine the effectiveness of current emergency plans and response procedures.

"The various agencies were clearly overstretched, and there was a very big reliance upon the voluntary sector.

"The question has to be asked as to whether an effective response could have been delivered if this incident had been as geographically widespread, and of the much longer duration, of the autumn 2000 floods.

"I for one sincerely doubt this and want to see evidence that lessons will be learned and the resilience of our communities enhanced."

Areas affected will now be counting the cost with insurers due to start assessing damaged property.

The total cost is likely to be in the millions, although Malcolm Tarling from the Association of British Insurers said it was too early to say.

"Insurers will be out inspecting flood damaged properties in Kent to assess damage and what repairs are needed," he said.

"Flood-damaged properties can take weeks or months to fully dry out and only then will the costs be known."

"Priority for insurers is to do all they can to help their customers recover and get necessary repairs started as soon as possible."



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Good job, but we must do better

Maidstone and the Weald MP **Helen Grant**, saw first-hand the devastation caused by the Christmas floods and witnessed true bulldog spirit as communities worked together... but lessons must be learned



AVISION of our county town that I will never forget was my view of the floods at the bottom of Maidstone High Street early on Boxing Day morning.

The waters had receded a little by the time we were there, but nevertheless the River Medway was up to the top of the Broadway Bridge arches, surging past like a massive, unrelenting torrent of lava.

As the sun rose and the fog cleared there was post-apocalyptic eeriness reminiscent of many disaster movies.

The town centre was already the focus of much activity so I decided to travel around the constituency and report on any issues further afield needing extra attention, liaising with Alison Broome and her team at Maidstone Borough Council.

The Allington Marina area was a particular worry with fears of boats losing their moorings and breaching the lock further downstream.

The consequences could have been disastrous.

Yalding was another location badly

affected as was widely reported on national TV.

Across the three days, from Boxing Day to Saturday, I spoke with many individuals in some of the worst affected areas.

There were tears and sadness, but at the same time communities pulled together in true British bulldog spirit.

Local people were valiantly evacuating people, pets and belongings.

Others were keeping an eye out and supplying hot tea and a warm meal to those who chose to remain in their homes.

Meanwhile, the agencies continued working seamlessly towards their common goal.

Once the waters had receded the clean-up operation rapidly commenced and electricity was restored as soon as it was safe to do so.

There have been questions raised about the timing and severity of the warnings given, communication between agencies and affected individuals, the decision to release water from the Leigh Barrier (and the effect this had upon Yalding) and whether



FLOOD: Helen Grant on Boxing Day

or not the flood management plan was adequate and effective generally.

These were severe conditions, however, and at a time of year when many key personnel were not in position.

In my opinion, seeing the operation unfold first-hand, I believe everyone involved did a very good job.

I met a small number of people affected who were not satisfied with the response, particularly regarding communication.

Certainly lessons can be learned

from these floods and I would personally like to see much better messaging and communication from the energy companies (and some other agencies) in the future.

Creating a database of direct primary contact methods for individuals is an achievable task, especially in these days of mobile messaging and social networking media independent of constant mains power.

Going forward, I am calling a round-table meeting of all relevant stakeholders to see how we can improve reactions to emergencies such as the Christmas floods.

That process must include looking at what can be done to improve the flood defence systems in the area.

We will consider the recommendations of the Environment Agency's 2009 Medway flood management report (<http://tinyurl.com/plcyoe>) and I welcome all constructive input from residents of Maidstone & the Weald. Please write to me at Link House, Knightrider Court, Knightrider Street, Maidstone, ME15 6LU or email helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk.

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How ultra-local radio has sparked airwaves revival

It is the media platform which refuses to die...but just why is radio enjoying another renaissance?

Joe Bill examines how dedicated niche stations are making us turn on and tune in again

WHEN the era of television dawned, the smart money was on the decline of radio.

After all, with all-singing, all-dancing TV beaming images into our front rooms, just why would we need to be entertained by that distant voice emerging from our radio sets?

Yet radio's very simplicity and ease of delivery has proved like a suit of armour.

Be it a voice for the lonely or a free ticket to the world of music for adolescents, radio continues to fulfil a vital role and remains a comfortably affordable platform – a basic set, after all, will set you back just a few pounds.

And while technological breakthroughs mean we can now summon movies, TV and music via broadband in the twinkling of an eye, radio simply surfed in on the back of it.

It is the format which refuses to die; not only maintaining an audience share, but on a local level flourishing once again.

Where perhaps regional TV took its eye off the ball through relentless cut-backs reducing genuine local news coverage, there is a new breed of ultra-local radio stations – community radio – delivering airtime at grassroots level.

Today, there are more than 200 such stations broadcasting in the UK.

Not, mind you, that they're dominating just yet.

In Kent, the leading local radio station is commercial network Heart – which was previously Invicta FM. It may be based in Whitstable, but its local roots are somewhat sparse, with much of its programming syndicated nationwide.

Then there is BBC Radio Kent, which courts a more mature audi-

ence and is funded via the licence fee.

And while they split the lion's share of listeners to local stations in the county, below them are a host of others nibbling at their heels such as KMFM – spawned by the long-established local media company – and financed by selling advertising.

But beneath those are an ever-increasing number of community radio stations operating to clearly defined niche audiences and on a strict not-for-profit basis.

They will still seek advertising to keep afloat, but the money made is simply reinvested back into the station's programming. And they're not allowed to muscle in on their rivals' patch.

Fuelling this rise is a change introduced by broadcasting regulator Ofcom in 2004. It created the 'community radio licence'. Far cheaper to apply for than a commercial one, it has proved highly popular. Ofcom

says that in the first seven years the licences launched, a new community station went live, on average, every 13 days.

Applying for a licence will set you back just £600, but the complex broadcasting equipment needed to output a professional schedule will come at a far higher cost.

To be given the go-ahead for a licence, Ofcom says a station has to define the community it wants to serve; be that a hospital, a town or collection of villages. They must also bring community benefits such as training or strengthened community links and involve local volunteers.

Red Sands Radio bursts into life each summer – broadcasting last year throughout July – from its base in Whitstable.

Following in the footsteps of Off-shore Radio – a pirate station from the 1960s – it initially broadcast from the Maunsell Forts off the seaside town's coast; the look-outs used during the Second World War.

Since then it has moved in-land and now has studios in the town.

At its helm is experienced radio entrepreneur Bob Le-Roi, a well-known figure in local radio circles for many years having enjoyed stints with both the BBC and Invicta FM.

The 65-year-old also helped set up Medway FM (now part of the KMFM group), Thanet Local Radio, White Cliffs Radio, Gateway FM and East Coast in a career that spans 50 years.

He still believes local radio is key to the community.

He said: "People want that localness. If someone turns on a radio station and hears topics relevant to their town, and things that are happening on the roads that will affect them, it's a winner."

And while it may be on a small scale, Mr Le-Roi is quick to point out local community radio can still be a slick, entertaining platform.

He adds: "We have credible, experienced broadcasters. We have a really strong music mix and a set of proper presenters; I don't mean these DJs who speak from cards and read what a computer tells them to say."

"What we are trying to do is put the local back into radio."

He is not alone in sensing that since Invicta FM morphed into Heart – a decision made by its owners Global Media – there is an opportunity again



“ People want that localness. If someone turns on a radio and hears topics relevant to their town, and that are happening on the roads, it's a winner ”

Bob Le-Roi, radio entrepreneur and man at helm of Red Sands Radio

to tap into a local radio audience.

He said: "When we had Invicta – and I enjoyed many good years there – we had a really good local radio station countywide. But we could get out and touch and feel the different areas."

"But now it's a homogenised brand under Global Media."

While there are limited opportunities to get a countywide licence, the community radio licence gives you five years of tightly focused airtime – the next batch of which will be awarded in the summer.

One of those applying in 2014 will be the group behind Miskin Radio,

which operates out of North West Kent College in Dartford.

Already available online, it uses both experienced broadcasters to present shows as well as allowing students to hone their radio skills – placing a big tick in the community box.

Miskin targets an audience across Dartford, Bexley and Gravesend and was originally working in conjunction with Kent Police to give traffic bulletins and breaking news during the 2012 Olympic Games. But after finding a listenership it has continued its service on the internet.

"Originally, we put together an ap-

plication to do a short-term broadcast during the Olympics," said station director Andy Sayers, "but we started liaising with North West Kent College and they were interested in developing it further – so we built the station into the creative media course there and decided to keep it on the internet."

"We run 24 hours a day, offering a range of shows. We have students producing our news programmes so it helps them develop skills as well."

From July to September in 2013, Miskin boasted some 43,000 listeners on its website, taking advantage of an area, Mr Sayers believes, is not



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well served by existing local radio stations.

He explained: "For us, we are just on the outskirts of everything: BBC London stops at Greenwich and BBC Kent occasionally covers us; Capital and Invicta is completely gone, from a local point of view, now it is Heart.

"So if something happens locally we are the ones able to respond to it and able to be on top of it.

"That's why it works; there are local things happening that aren't national news, but do affect local people."

With local media already competitive with newspapers and websites all

battling for attention. Radio adds further spice into communities.

BRFM is based on the Isle of Sheppey delivering local news, sport and music. After several failed attempts to get a licence, it finally succeeded and in 2011 won the extension it needed to keep it on air until at least 2016.

Coordinator Mathew Judd has been with the station for nearly six years.

"You can only have one licence per community, so if anyone wants to get another in Sheppey they would be declined," he explains.

"We are only supposed to broadcast to the island, but because of where we are located a lot more places can actually hear us, including Sittingbourne, Faversham and across the water in parts of Essex."

The 25-year-old, who is also the breakfast show presenter at the station, explained it can be difficult for small stations to know audience figures accurately.

"We have to look at our interaction with the public to find out how popular a show is or a time slot.

"Through my show the other week I had 160 text messages in two hours,

so we are getting a good number of listeners."

But the survival of a community radio station is not made easy with certain rules installed to prevent them from growing beyond their means or impacting on nearby commercial stations.

In short, the aim is not to kill-off the opposition, but to weave a tapestry of thriving stations playing to distinct, small, local audiences.

Community radio must remain not-for-profit with no station permitted to raise more than 50 per cent of its operating costs from a single source.

The stations can take sponsorship and a small amount of advertising revenue through public funding, donor income, National Lottery funding or charities; all in order to protect the financial interests of commercial stations.

The stations can also take a share of government-backed funding handed out by Ofcom, though legislation dictates community radio stations cannot compete financially with their commercial counterparts.

However, they can compete with their listenership.

Bob Le-Roi says Red Sands managed to bite into some bigger pies last summer.

He said: "We generally take Heart and KMFM listeners, but this year we took Radio 2 listeners in big numbers as well which was quite impressive."

"We were very pleased about that."

And while individual audiences are far from enormous, there is a growing audience that tune in to the likes of Academy FM in Folkestone and Ramsgate, CSR in Canterbury, and Radio Sunlight in Gillingham.

AHBS in Ashford has a licence and broadcasts to the William Harvey Hospital.

In addition, there are internet stations like Channel Radio which focuses on the coastline, and Radio Cabin which serves Herne Bay and the surrounding area.

BRFM's Matthew Judd adds: "We are there for the community and they know they can interact with us at anytime during the day."

"A group of radio enthusiasts wanted to put a radio station on the island because no other radio station focuses on here and now we have that."

BRFM has 20 unpaid volunteers



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covering everything from school and road closures, to localised weather reports.

Mr Judd adds: "There are more and more community stations setting up because the big stations don't cater for local areas anymore.

"People can interact with us; where as other stations won't take requests or people's messages, we do all of the above and that is why we are so popular now.

"We have a specialist show on Mondays completely dedicated to the community so we have all sorts of guests come in – artists, policemen or firefighters to talk about what's happening in the local area.

"There is a demand for it."

Station director at Miskin Radio, Andy Sayers, believes the boom shows no sign of slowing either.

"We could have more coming this way as the next round is due in summer 2014. You have to be a not-for-profit, aimed at a specific area and be open to volunteers."

Miskin has 22 people on its team with Mr Sayers having started as a teacher on the media course whose students help to run the internet station.

"We have a mixture of industry professionals; people that just want to learn about radio and are doing it for the first time and a number of students from North West Kent College," says Mr Sayers.

"We are not in competition with the big stations, but we can offer something different.

"It's like a local Radio 2. We have interviews during the day with guests and specialist evenings

"It is the range of programming

Kent audience share

Station	Share
Heart	12.50%
KMFM Group	4.50%
BBC Radio Kent	9.50%



UK Radio... in numbers

Source: RAJAR, Q3, Oct 2013

Share of the population (47.7m adults) that tune into radio every week

90%

Average number of hours a listener tunes in weekly

21.5

Increase in the number of radio listeners for one quarter between 2012 and 2013

1m

Share of population regularly tuning into digital radio (online/DAB/digital TV)

51%

Number of adults with access to DAB radio

24m

that brings people to us. If you want just chart music then listen to Capital Radio or Kiss FM.

"What community radio does is give you that range so you can have your chart shows, your easy listening, your soul and classical all in one place. We have to come up with new ideas to give away prizes and other things. For example: we were giving away 10 free driving lessons to a local driving school recently – they are not million pound prizes, but it doesn't matter, it works."

Bob Le-Roi at Whitstable's Red Sands, adds: "We do something called the 'Live Lunch' where we go out onto the deck and interview someone.

"It could be a local community member, a celebrity who is coming to the area and we have done live music

sets out in the sunshine."

Based in the Angling Society building at the harbour, Red Sands says music remains an essential part of the mix.

He explained: "Our music is very different to what anyone else plays. That doesn't mean it's old; it's fresh, and it's different. We have had people tell us they know when it is summer because they listen to Red Sands, and that is great to hear."

Perhaps most importantly, community radio delivers free programming to the community it serves. And while it may sometimes lack the polish of its bigger commercial cousins, it is true to its roots and plays a vital role.

Jaqui Devereux, director of the Community Media Association (CMA), believes it is something everyone should cherish.

She said: "After 10 years on the air, we believe community radio is maturing and becoming an integral and indispensable part of the broadcast landscape.

"Our sector has found its voice producing confident and innovative programming from and for local communities – and at last this is being recognised.

"The community broadcasting sector is as healthy and vibrant as it has ever been and there is no slowdown in the growth of the sector with a huge rush for licences anticipated in London and the south east next year."

Ofcom has joined the CMA in urg-

ing the Government recognise community stations for helping to add "social gain" to communities around the UK with many hoping that more central funding is distributed.

Although, with the squeeze on public funding, the fight for additional revenues could be a tough one.

Community radio manager at Ofcom, Soo Williams, said: "Community radio is thriving and helping to bring together local communities across the UK. With more than 200 stations on air, community radio is enabling thousands of people to have a voice and help serve the needs of their local area."

■ What do you think of local radio? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.



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A-listers help to make 2013 a record year for Eurostar

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EUROSTAR is celebrating its highest ever number of passengers in a single year, hitting the 10 million mark – among them a host of the world's biggest celebrities.

As the service races through the Kent countryside, famous faces using the line have included Sir Paul McCartney, who lives near Rye, David Beckham, Liza Minelli, Madonna and pop sensation One Direction.

The train operator, which runs services from St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford through the Channel Tunnel to cities on the Continent, including Paris and Lille, also celebrated carrying 140 million passengers since operations began.

The first commercial Eurostar

service departed London, Paris and Brussels on November 14, 1994.

New routes have since been added including Lille, Disneyland Paris and the French Alps, with the most recent being a new winter ski service to the Swiss Alps. A summer trial route to Provence in the south of France was so successful it will be rolled out permanently from 2015.

Commercial director for Eurostar, Nick Mercer, said: "It has been a record-breaking year for us.

"With a leap in passenger numbers as well as the introduction of new routes and new destinations, we are seeing growing demand from customers across Europe and indeed around the world.

"As we enter our 20th year of operation, we have a year of activity planned on the run-up to our birthday in November."



Top 10 celebrities to use Eurostar in 2013

- 1) Sir Paul & Stella McCartney
- 2) The Beckhams (David, Victoria, Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz & Harper)
- 3) Madonna
- 4) Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall
- 5) Mick Jagger
- 6) One Direction
- 7) Liza Minelli
- 8) Rihanna
- 9) Kanye West & Kim Kardashian
- 10) Katy Perry



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Cloth cat's stamp of approval as Bagpuss given first day cover

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SPECIAL limited edition first day cover is being published to celebrate the 40th anniversary of children's television favourite Bagpuss.

The cover has been created by Folkestone-based Buckingham Covers, which worked closely with the show's co-creator, Peter Firmin, to create the designs.

Published on January 7, the covers were created by Cath Buckingham, with Mr Firmin designing the postmark 'Blean, Canterbury'. It was in Blean that Mr Firmin and his colleague Oliver Postgate created and filmed Bagpuss, along with a number of their other popular shows, such as the Clangers, in a converted cowshed.

The Firmin family home was also used as the setting for the front of the shop in which Bagpuss lived.

Just 13 episodes featuring the saggy cloth cat were ever created, but it would go on to entertain generations of children.

In 1999, a BBC poll declared it the nation's all-time favourite children's TV show.

Today, it continues to generate thousands of pounds through merchandising deals.

Cath Buckingham said of the design process for the first day covers: "It was a privilege to work closely with Peter Firmin.

"He was a delight, nothing was too much trouble. He invited me to his home in Blean and opened all his archives of artwork for me.

"He was also active in the design and created the postmark himself."

A limited number of prints are signed by Peter Firmin's daughter – Emily. She is the real-life 'Emily' who brought her cat to life in each episode. She is now an established artist in her own right, operating out of studios in Whitstable.

Oliver Postgate died, aged 83, in Broadstairs in 2008.

Funds raised by the sale of the cover will support the Scottish Wild Cat Project at the Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks in the county, along with other animal charities.

The original Bagpuss is on display at the Canterbury Heritage Museum.



PURR-FECT: Bagpuss co-creator Peter Firmin, right, helped with the design of first day cover

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26 Week ending January 5, 2014

Dramatic pictures put photographer in frame for award

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN AWARD-winning amateur photographer from Rochester is hoping these two stunning images propel him to further success after he reached the final of a prestigious wildlife competition.

Pui Hang Miles has seen two of his images make the shortlist in the Nature Photography Awards organised by the Scottish Seabird Centre.

Now in their eighth year, the awards attracted a record level of entries across seven categories with more than 100 images of flora and fauna, from around the globe, hoping to impress the judges after making the shortlist.

All the images are currently on display as part of an exhibition within the centre, based in North Berwick.

Entries were received from amateur photographers across the UK, and internationally, with images submitted from Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Hungary and America.

Included in the exhibition are images of a brown bear mother and her cubs taken in Alaska, a group of macaques taking a natural spa treatment in Japan and some Scottish wildlife images featuring puffins, red squirrels, red deer and ospreys.

Mr Miles has two images in the running – The Dive and The Lone Tree.

On the first image, The Dive (top right), which is in the worldwide wild-

life category, the photographer says: "I spent a whole day sat next to a river trying to capture diving kingfishers.

"Most images I've seen are of a kingfisher emerging from the water so I wanted to be different by capturing a kingfisher before it hit the water."

Of the second shot, The Lone Tree (top left) in the landscape category, he added: "This is possibly the most famous tree in Yellowstone National Park, standing lonely in the snowy landscape."

The judges – Lorne Gill, the award-winning official photographer at Scottish Natural Heritage, freelance photographer Graham Riddell and Scottish Field editor Richard Bath – said they were hugely impressed by the standard of entries and the creative approach shown by the photographers.

The exhibition is open to the public until January 31, and members of the public are being invited to vote for their favourite. The image with the most public votes will then be awarded the People's Choice Award.

Tom Brock OBE, chief executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre, said: "We're delighted to have received a record number of entries this year, and are also thrilled by the incredibly high standard of the images submitted.

"Given the competition is only open to amateur photographers, the quality of the entries is stunning."

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Scottish Seabird Centre in February 2014.

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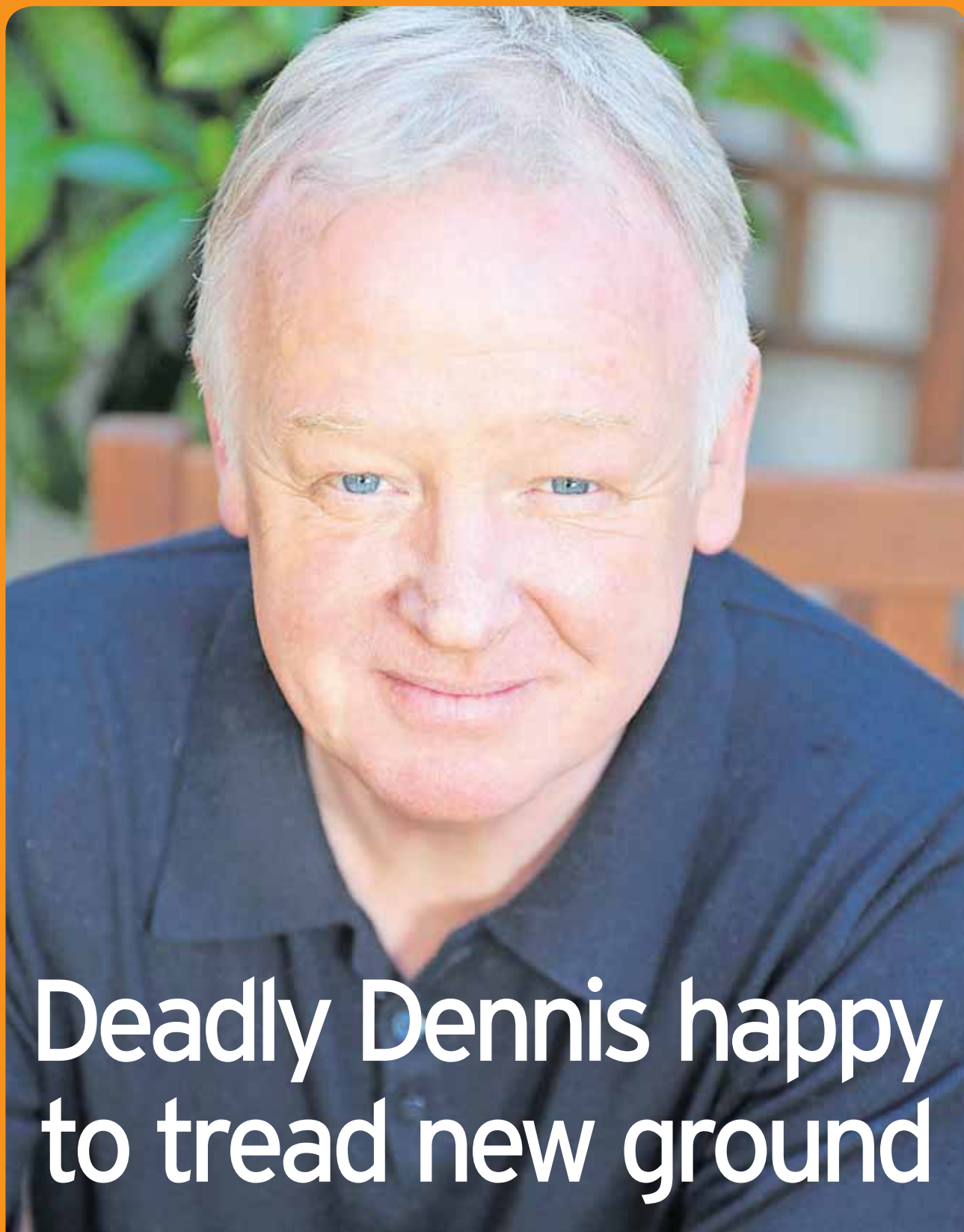
Each week we showcase a striking image taken in the county – whether it is a landscape, people or something more unusual – in our Images of Kent page.

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Courtesy of the page's sponsor, MyFerryLink, every photographer featured wins a Dover to Calais return ticket for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year, and for any duration.

To be in with a chance, simply send your high-resolution images to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please note, you must include your full name, address and contact telephone number, and that all images must be no less than 200dpi to reproduce.

We look forward to receiving your entries.



Deadly Dennis happy to tread new ground

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Greg Miles talks to Les Dennis on his starring role in the new stage adaptation of Peter James's *The Perfect Murder*

SPAMALOT, Midsomer Murders, Big Brother, Hairspray, Extras, Merseybeat, Casualty, Brookside, Holby City, Chicago, Legally Blonde, The Bill, Family Fortunes and Big Brother...

Les Dennis is certainly no stranger to versatility.

The comedian-turned-TV favourite has become a fixture of the nation's viewing over the last few decades but is breaking new ground in Dartford next month.

Off the back of playing King Arthur in Monty Python's legendary *Spamalot* in the West End, the 60-year-old is changing direction from comedy to drama at The Orchard Theatre.

He has landed the role of Victor in the world premiere of *The Perfect Murder*, adapted for the stage from Peter James's best-selling novel.

James's books, the majority of which are centred on the police detective Roy Grace, have sold

more than 14 million copies worldwide.

The Perfect Murder follows the story of Victor and his wife Joan, whose long marriage is coming to a cold end as Victor decides there is only one way to get rid of his wife.

But he's in for a nasty surprise. Grace gets on the case of his very first homicide, which has plenty of twists and turns.

After the book was released in

Continued on page 29 »

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« Continued from page 27

2010, it spent 14 weeks at No 1 on iBooks and 45 weeks in the Top 10 best-sellers.

The chance to play the lead role of Victor is an opportunity that self-confessed Peter James fan Dennis could not turn down.

"I worked with this play's director before in pantomime about three years ago and always said I would to work with him again," Dennis said.

"This project came up, he talked to me about it, and it just happened.

"I'd read a couple of Peter James's novels before, so for me it was a bit of a no-brainer. Victor is a really interesting character and interesting to play."

“As the author said, it's not set in stone. If we find things that work, then it's part of really getting this together”

Directing the production is Olivier Award-winner Ian Talbot, and alongside Dennis is Claire Goose, who has starred in the BBC hit series *Waking The Dead* and *Casualty* as well as ITV's *The Bill* and, most recently, Sky TV's comedy-drama *Mount Pleasant*.

They are joined by Gray O'Brien, who recently enjoyed an award-winning three years in *Coronation Street* and has also starred in the TV series *Titanic*, *Peak Practice* and *Casualty* as well as in the West End in *Sleuth*.

All the cast are playing characters on stage that have never been brought to life before.

This added to the draw of the project for Dennis.

"It's always excited me spending time to take on a new character," he said.

"What's exciting is I'm creating it.

"As the author said, it's not set in stone. If we find things that work, then it's part of really getting this

WHODUNNIT?

Les Dennis, far right, enjoys a joke with his fellow cast members in *The Perfect Murder*



play together.

"Peter James said when he was writing it he had a lot of us in mind.

"It's always interesting to have an audience that follow the twists and turns, and watching them go with

that. We read it through back in September, and everybody met then.

"Everyone seemed pleased with the way it's gone so far."

As Dennis's CV shows, he is adept at dropping one persona and taking

on the next, while there is still plenty of work coming his way.

"That's the great thing about theatre – you can go from one thing to another," he said.

"There were three things I turned

down last year. I'm fortunate enough to be picky.

"I was actually filming an episode of *Midsomer Murders* when this

Continued on page 30 »

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ROLE MODELS: Les Dennis plays the part of Victor in the stage version of Peter James's *The Perfect Murder*, starring alongside Claire Goose, who has starred in *Waking The Dead* and *Casualty*

« Continued from page 29

opportunity came about."

There was certainly some trepidation about how his theatre career got off the ground as he was asked to follow in some big steps for his debut production.

Dennis said: "I was asked by Ewan Smith to do *Skylight*. He had faith in me to play this massive role that had been done by Michael Gambon and Bill Nighy before.

"It was a real baptism of fire.

"It's [theatre] something I was always determined to do. I wasn't

sure of going to drama school, so I went into the working-men's clubs.

"I didn't want to just play comedians throughout my career. I have slowly turned my career into one of an actor."

There was a time, though, when his career looked to be heading for the scrapheap after a very public meltdown.

In 2002, Dennis featured in Channel 4's *Celebrity Big Brother* alongside the likes of Take That's Mark Owen, model Melinda Messenger and TV presenter Sue Perkins.

It was at a time when his marriage

to actress-turned-Britain's Got Talent judge Amanda Holden broke down.

The father-of-three was once branded 'Les miserables', but it was not long before he took a great positive from that moment.

It paved the way for a role parodying himself in Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant's BBC2 comedy series *Extras*.

"It was so long ago now," he said.

"For me it was a turning point. If I hadn't done *Big Brother*, I wouldn't have got the *Extras* show, which

came about six months or so later.

"If I was asked to do another version of myself, the only person I would do it for would be Ricky."

He was recently joint runner-up on *Celebrity Masterchef* with Janet Street-Porter, while comedian Adrian Edmondson took the crown.

"I said I wouldn't do another reality show after *Big Brother*, but it was the best thing I have ever done," he said.

"It was great to do and I learnt a skill at the same time."

Having had roots in comedy, does he ever want to go back there?

"I don't know," he said. "It's a hard

world and it's very competitive. I might do something retrospective one day."

■ The Perfect Murder will be playing at The Orchard Theatre between Wednesday and Saturday, January 8-11, at 7.30pm, with matinees on both Thursday and Saturday.

Tickets cost between £10 and £25 plus a per-ticket booking fee. Discounts are available for under-21s, groups and premiere card members.

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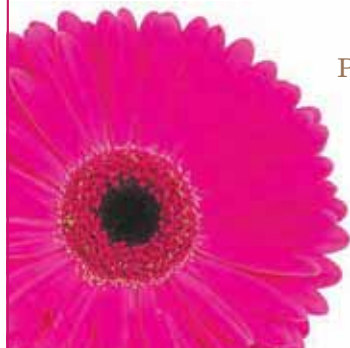
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KENT LIFE

FRESH PASTURES: Tasty spring lamb does not have to cost the earth, as Adam Henson found out



From farm to fork and all the bits inbetween

Adam Henson joined forces with top chef Nigel Slater for a fresh look at how we use food and discovered how we can reconnect with the meals on our plates

I'VE recently been involved in an unlikely but very enjoyable partnership: I teamed up with Nigel Slater for a BBC TV series about British food.

Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen saw me, a farmer from the Cotswolds, paired up with this north London cook, award-winning writer and celebrated food columnist.

We come from entirely different worlds. For instance, while I'm really at home in the cab of a combine harvester, Nigel hasn't driven for decades. But sure enough, we got on famously.

The whole idea of the series was to follow some of our best-known and most popular foods from farm to fork as a way of trying to reconnect us with the meals on our plates.

After all, we lead such busy lives these days and convenience food is so easily available I think we've lost touch with the staples in our diet. That's despite the fact more than half the land in the UK is

used for producing food.

Take chicken, for instance. It's Britain's favourite meat – we eat our way through more than a billion chickens every year and a lot of it appears in processed meals and takeaways.

But knowing how much we Brits love exotic tastes and foreign flavours, Nigel picked the brains of some top restaurant-owners in the North West to devise simple ways of making things like chicken Kiev healthily at home.

Living and working on the land, I'm very aware of the changing seasons and what that means for crops and harvesting.

I count myself lucky to be so close to nature because modern city life and imported meat, fruit and vegetables can really divorce you from the notion of seasonality.

If you let it, that is. In tough times the cost of food in season is important, so we looked at something that has become more expensive in recent years to see if there was a cheaper alternative.

Spring lamb is delicious but out of reach for many on a budget.

I discovered that the answer lies in knowing about the various cuts of meat: the sort of things you see on diagrams in butchers' shops.

We rescued the cheaper, less fashionable cuts and Nigel produced dishes that proved spring lamb can be tasty and inexpensive.

We also filmed the sort of event that was once a common sight in every village: the traditional harvest supper. It really focuses the mind when you're challenged to feed your neighbours from food you've grown yourself.

The prospect of moving in with a farming family to grow crops, rear animals and cook up tasty, cheap, healthy food was a tall order, but I really think we succeeded.

Both Nigel and I learnt a great deal from the experience.

Although, I'll think twice before letting him anywhere near another combine harvester...



■ This article and more pieces on food and drink can be enjoyed in **January's Kent Life**... out now. Or subscribe online @ subscriptionsave.co.uk or www.buyamag.co.uk/KL

A chapter that's worth reading again

Chapter One

Location: Farnborough Common

Reviewed by **NICK SMITH**

THE reputation is massive. Headed by renowned chef Andrew McLeish, who has been at the helm of Chapter One for 12 years and who trained with the legendary Nico Ladenis, here is venue that has a name to live up to.

It's a reputation that is enhanced by four AA rosettes and a Michelin star – Chapter One is numbered among only a select few that carry such accolades together – and you might think that with status comes a certain kind of pressure.

And of course you'd be right – lose that star, have those rosettes taken away, and the damage to your public esteem is such that it might be better had you not ever been awarded them in the first place.

In similar vein, there's a tenet that it's always worth paying for the name... that reputation thing again. However, the good folk at Chapter One are keen to impress that this is not about exclusivity, about pricing out all but the very wealthiest.

Rather, the stated maxim is "quality food at a reasonable price".

By way of example, guests can

choose a three-course dinner for £38.50 on Friday and Saturday evenings, while on Sunday evenings they can select three courses from the à la carte menu for £33.50. Point made.

I didn't visit on a weekend. Rather, it was midweek and I still found the place comfortably full.

It only struck me as we left, but there had been an impressive number of people dining yet through much of the evening I was barely aware of anyone else being present, other than the helpful and knowledgeable waiting staff, of course.

Other than the food, it is that attention to details such as layout that can make or break a meal for guests at any restaurant.

And the food was, perhaps predictably, all that we could have hoped for.

I chose warm smoked haddock, poached hen's egg, chargrilled ratte potatoes and leek vinaigrette with which to start.

Absolutely beautiful, and my companion could but gnash her teeth in dismay that she had elected



not to have a starter herself.

She did, though, redeem matters, by going with fish of the day for her main course.

This was black bream, a particular favourite of hers and a dish with which she is wholly familiar. She said it was as good as any she had tasted.

Happy days over the other side of the table, then, as indeed they were on mine.

Josper-grilled USDA ribeye steak with twice-cooked chunky chips and Béarnaise sauce was my selection.

A superb piece of steak, although I have had better chunky chips. Béarnaise sauce is not my thing, so it was fortunate that it was contained within a separate dish and not on the plate to affect the rest of the platter. Again, those defining touches...

Mandarin mousse (me) and

peanut-and-chocolate tart (her) rounded off the meal, all set to a half-bottle of splendid red wine.

Would I visit again? Absolutely I would... and often.

■ **Chapter One**
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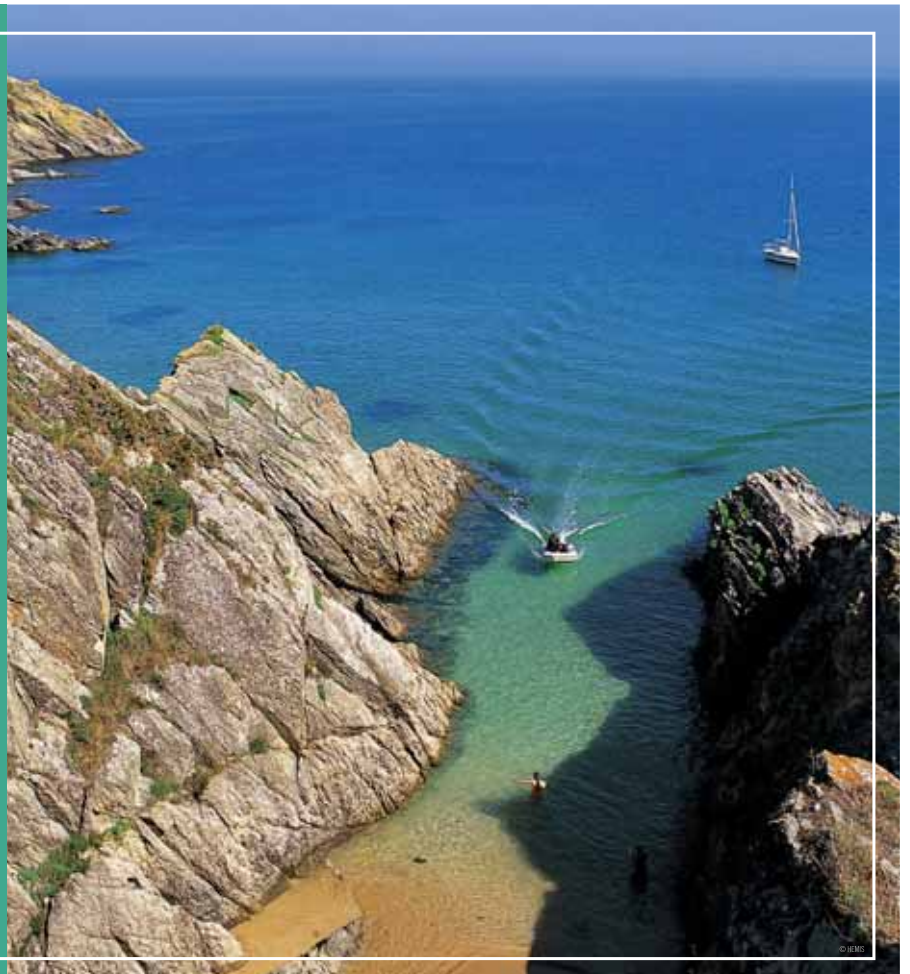


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Kent designer Lorna Crosbie-Smith is a long-term enthusiast of wallpaper: "Make a statement in any room with 'feature wall' using the boldest and brightest designs," she said.

"Wallpaper can also change the apparent dimensions of a room. For example, a stripe hung horizontally makes a room look longer, and hung vertically, look higher.

"Colour also plays a part in creating effect:

bright colours to keep you alert and soft colours to help you relax.

Create your own original ideas where to use wallpaper to the best effect and let your imagination run free. The options really are endless and very exciting".

So, where to start?

Choosing your wallpaper is fun, with innovative and exciting designs never far away. The default option for many of using the internet is likely to disappoint: colour and texture are part of the DNA of wallpaper and these cannot be seen to good effect on a computer screen.

You really do need to see the actual product and feel the texture.

Most DIY superstores stock wallpaper, but the offer will be limited. A specialist wallpaper store is generally the best option, with huge choice, advice and samples all freely available.



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Conservatories are another great way to give the home that all-important light and airy feeling. A place to relax with large windows, they



SO CHARMING: An orangery is delightful

allow a view out to the garden, increasing the feeling of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

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Family firm has got it covered

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There are various deals on offer in 2014, including OAP discount, discounts for multiple roof bookings at one time and referral benefits for customers.

This year looks to be an exciting one with the Meridian expansion ensuring it can offer more of the comprehensive service it provides and also cater to a wider geographical area.

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Space is deep, if you allow it to be

WHETHER it be making the most of what you have got or building extensions for the home, this coming year you can radically improve your living space.

You may not want to or be able to move house – but if you want to bring a change to the place in which you live there are a great many ideas out there.

And not only will it make a fantastic improvement to your home life – it will also hugely increase your property's value.

So whether it's upgraded fittings and furniture, a new extension, or ensuring that working from home is an absolute pleasure, 2014 can be the year that your house gets an upgrade.

It's the best way that you can make the very best of both your lifestyle and your property and make your home even more welcoming for guests.

Combining efficiency with practicality is the way that you can make the most of your property without making a massive dent in your bank balance.

Creating space you never thought you had is important and expert designers will work to maximise every millimetre and create more space, both inside and out.

The bedroom is a private space that can be designed to reflect your personality while keeping your clothes, accessories and other important items stored away neatly behind well-organised closed drawers and doors.

The longer we live in a home, or the bigger our family becomes, the more bits and bobs our family accumulates and it's often the bedroom that is called upon to provide a home for these items.

With the British weather being so unpredictable, too, we seem to struggle with over-stuffed wardrobes filled with summer and winter clothes within reach so we can prepare for rain or shine, smart or casual, day or night whenever necessary.

When it comes to looks for 2014, clutter-free will be crucial and new bedroom design will continue to blur the lines between function and style.

This means that, with the right approach, any space can fulfil its potential.

Complete personalisation, too, will be paramount, right from the door handles to the internal shoe-racks and pull-down hanging rails.

So you see, clever thinking is key to making the most of your home... your castle.



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So if you are not moving but improving, Morris and Turner can help. Visit the Luton Road showroom or pop in for a chat at Dockside Shopping Centre at the top of the escalators.



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In dogs charity our best friends trust

DOGS TRUST

FOUNDED in 1891, the Dogs Trust (formerly the National Canine Defence League) is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK.

Its mission is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

Each year the trust cares for some 16,000 dogs at its nationwide network of 18 rehoming centres. No healthy dog is ever destroyed.

It runs subsidised neutering campaigns in areas of the UK with the most acute stray-dog problems.

Education officers give thousands of classroom presentations every year, while free teaching resources are made available to all schools in the UK.

The trust's Freedom Project helps pet-owners who are fleeing domestic violence by fostering their animals while they start a new life.

The Hope Project gives preventative veterinary care to dogs belonging to homeless people.

The trust also assists overseas animal-welfare charities by training their staff in best practice.

In 2009 the trust launched a UK-wide campaign calling for the



ANIMAL MAGIC: The Dogs Trust has campaigned hard for compulsory microchipping – the process helps thousands of pets to be reunited with owners

compulsory permanent identification of dogs through microchipping.

This campaign has a high level of support from the general public, vets and local authorities.

The microchips, the size of a grain of rice, have saved the lives of more than 8,000 lost dogs over the last year by reuniting them with their

owners – this was 1,000 more reunifications than last year.

The finding is revealed in the trust's 2013 Stray Dog Survey.

The report found that 111,986 stray and abandoned dogs were picked up by local authorities across the UK in 12 months.

While representing a 6 per cent

decrease on the previous year, the figure still equates to a staggering 307 stray dogs found each day.

Sadly, despite considerable headway being made by local authorities and animal-welfare organisations to promote responsible dog-ownership through microchipping, education and

neutering, the survey also recorded 9,000 dogs being put to sleep.

However, on a more positive note, the report recorded more instances of dogs reunited with their owners.

For all this to happen, the Dogs Trust relies on the generosity of the public. If you can make a donation, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

FREE MICROCHIPPING
from Dogs Trust
Please visit us at:

**Stone Pavilion - Hayes Road,
Stone, Kent DA9 9DS
Saturday 11th January 12-4pm**



The law is changing!
As from the 6th April 2016 you **must** have your dog microchipped!

Contact **0207 8370006** for more details
or visit **www.chipmydog.org.uk**

*Offer open to dog owners aged 18 or over regardless of benefit status, subject to availability and resources of the charity. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently fund any other veterinary treatment. No appointment needed. We strongly advise that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination. We cannot chip any pets at this event. The Promoter: Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SC037843.



The importance of IT in the world of business and commerce can not be understated and there is the repeated message that more of our workforce – young and old alike – should be skilled in the ways of computer technology. Here we look at a very special partnership that seeks to achieve just that...

IT crowd ready to join network of universities

A PIONEERING public-sector IT partnership is working with university students in a two-way exchange of knowledge, writes Shelley Whittaker.

A new agreement between Kent Connects – a public-sector technology partnership that links all of the county's councils with the emergency services and NHS – and three Kent-based universities will help promote IT innovation and knowledge transfer across Kent.

The Kent IT Alliance (KITA) will support collaboration and provide opportunities for knowledge transfer, joint

funding, research and development, and the exchange of innovative practices through the use of technology.

KITA will also offer students from the universities of Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church the opportunity to undertake IT placements and student projects for Kent Connects organisations.

Students will have an opportunity to work on projects such as developing apps, cybercrime, mobile working and information governance.

Placements will be available for up to one year and will also include work



on data-sharing initiatives, co-creation of prototypes, authentication and security.

Both Kent Connects and the universities believe students will benefit greatly from the work-based experience and councils and other partners involved will gain from the students' expertise.

Carol Patrick, head of ICT Partnerships for Kent Connects, said: "Technology changes so quickly we want to

make sure we keep abreast of latest thinking and skills. Young people will bring vibrancy to the work we do and will help us to develop solutions while gaining valuable experience in the workplace."

Kent Connects is a partnership of all of the county's councils as well as Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue, and Kent and Medway Commissioning Support Unit (KMCS), which works with Kent and Medway's NHS

Clinical Commissioning Groups. The partnership enables the members to work collaboratively and innovatively to provide value-for-money IT solutions for the benefit of its customers.

The schools of computing at Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church universities are participating in the Kent IT Alliance initiative with Kent Connects.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 »



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« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

William Benson, chief executive of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and chair of the Kent Connects Public Services ICT Board, said: "We're keen to help students gain the practical skills they will need when they enter the job market."

"They can roll their sleeves up and get involved in a variety of projects that will contribute to their coursework, while partners can deploy students in areas that need both time and research."

"To offer this to computing students across three Kent-based universities provides a fantastic opportunity not only for the students but also for Kent Connects partners."

"We believe this collaboration with universities will also inject a new way of thinking into the work of the partners of Kent Connects and will support skill development as a two-way street."

"We will be supporting the students, but we very much consider that they will be supporting us in a very valuable way."

Simon Thompson, director of research and enterprise in the University of Kent's School of Computing, said: "We are delighted to have this opportunity to work more closely with partners in the public sector across Kent."

"Computer science is a practical subject and our students can only gain a fully-rounded education by seeing how what we have taught them is applied in practice."

"Placement opportunities like this



LOGGED ON: The KITA initiative offers students the chance to gain invaluable work experience in the IT industry

– which are enjoyed by a hundred of our students each year – provide this invaluable experience.

"We're also glad to be able to share our insights and research with Kent Connects, hopefully to improve

services for the wider community." Audrey Songhurst, director of the research and enterprise development

centre of Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "Canterbury Christ Church University is proud of its reputation as the South East's largest provider of courses for public service careers outside of London and we are delighted to be involved in this exciting initiative, which will provide students with meaningful experience of working in the IT industry and give them a competitive edge when entering the world of work."

"Building partnerships across the public and private sectors is very important to us and the extensive expertise of the department of computing in such fields as forensic computing and cybercrime forensics means we are well placed to make a positive contribution to the work of the Kent IT Alliance in these and wider areas."

Professor Liz Bacon, deputy president of the BCS (Chartered Institute for IT), chair of the BCS Academy of Computing and dean of computing and mathematical sciences at the University of Greenwich, said: "The School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Greenwich is delighted to be involved in the KITA initiative."

"Not only does it provide tremendous opportunities for our students to gain real work experience using the skills and knowledge they have gained from their courses, massively enhancing their employment prospects, but it also brings the school closer to our local communities in Kent, offering mutual opportunities for joint IT project development and deployment."







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Funds available... if you know just where to look

As businesses across the county prepare for the challenges of 2014, **Paul Wookey**, chief executive of Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, reveals how they can take advantage of millions of pounds in funding on offer



SECURING finance for your business remains a challenge despite the improving economic climate.

Pressure from Government on the high-street banks designed to ensure the effects of the Bank of England's quantitative-easing programme filtered down to businesses has achieved mixed results – depending on which side of the story you listen to.

Finding large-scale private backers willing to invest is equally challenging, as those with the funds to help are looking for the best return for minimal risk.

One emerging source of finance is 'crowdfunding', where companies can secure contributions from online

investors, sponsors or donors to fund business growth.

However, in parts of Kent and Medway there is another alternative – a near-£60 million pot of Regional Growth Fund finance, managed by Kent County Council, available now and already helping businesses to grow the local economy.

The funds are not only for companies looking to relocate to Kent but also for businesses within the local-authority areas covered that have specific investment projects that will help create or secure jobs.

Expansion East Kent has £35m available in the form of zero per cent interest-free loans to sole traders, partnerships, limited companies or

not-for-profit businesses in the Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet local-authority areas.

To be eligible, companies must use the support from the fund to create or safeguard jobs and be able to provide an element of private-sector investment.

The scheme will fund tangible assets, such as land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and intangible assets such as the transfer of technology or knowledge from third parties.

In north Kent, Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise (Tiger) has £20m to invest in the form of capital investment loans, young innovative enterprise loans,

innovation and development loans or innovation centres loans.

It is open to businesses in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale that have match-funding available, are creating or safeguarding jobs, can show their proposal will have a positive impact on north Kent and they can repay the loan within five to seven years.

The application and assessment process for both schemes is thorough and gives companies an opportunity to review and update their business plans, and to take a step back and reassess targets and performance to date.

There are three stages: a pre-application, a full application along

with a comprehensive business plan and an assessment by an independent panel of experts.

There are smaller funds, also, such as the Marsh Million, which offers zero per cent loans to small and micro businesses and start-ups on Romney Marsh, and Escalate, which opens in December and is for companies in Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling and part of Sussex.

More than £25m has already been allocated to about 70 businesses from just about every business sector – life sciences, IT, business support, manufacturing and more – but money is there and waiting for dynamic, growing businesses to invest in Kent.

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Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departures
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, from **£799pp**
Departs *6 Apr, 6 Jun, 15 & 21 Sept, 2 Oct, 2014

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*6 April departure also available by air from Gatwick

- INCLUDED:**
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QUOTE:
RH6-KOS

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- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
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 - Transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: DF2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£849pp**
Departs 25 February, 2014

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This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous champagne bar.

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 - Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)

- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- 6 nights in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts and dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local beer, wine & spirits
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco and Cervo
- All transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: ML2-2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£399pp**
Departs 21 February, 2014

Come with us to see the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and visit Monaco. We fly from Gatwick to Nice and stay in chic Beaulieu Sur Mer. On the French Riviera we travel to Nice, Menton and Monaco on the scenic coastal railway and enjoy great views along the way.

- INCLUDED:**
- Return flights from Gatwick to Nice with cabin baggage

- Return transfers from Nice airport to hotel
- 3 nights B&B in 3-star hotel between Nice and Menton
- Return rail travel to Nice, Monaco and Menton
- Reserved grandstand seat at Menton Parade
- Services of a Tour Manager in the resort

FERRARI - LIVE THE DREAM IN MARANELLO



QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£499pp**
Departs 27 March & 16 October, 2014

Come with us to Maranello in Italy - home to the world's most famous sports car maker. Our tour takes in the The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum, the Fiorano test-track and Viale Enzo Ferrari. We stay at a Ferrari themed hotel and have the opportunity to take a Ferrari out for a spin.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout abroad
 - 3 nights B&B at the 4 star Maranello Village Hotel
 - Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Bologna
 - All travel and excursions abroad

ITALIAN LAKES - COMO, GARDA & MAGGIORE



QUOTE: LC6-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
9 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£1129pp**
Departs 23 June, 2014

**CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN**

Come with us to the Italian Lakes where the mountains roll down to the water's edge. We travel by Eurostar from London to Paris and by overnight train - with private 2-berth cabins - to Verona. We stay in a lakeside hotel on an all-inclusive basis including free drinks.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return Eurostar to Paris and Thello rail travel to Verona, returning from Milan in a 2-berth overnight sleeper cabin
 - 6 nights in a deluxe room at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis
 - Excursions
 - All transfers abroad

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QUOTE: DC-KOS

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- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout abroad
 - Return flights, with hold luggage, to Munich from Gatwick
 - 1 night hotel B&B in Germany & 7 night full board cruise on the MS Serenity in a standard twin bed, outside cabin
 - Transfers abroad

TUSCANY COAST & COUNTRY EXPLORER BY RAIL



QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£899pp**
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Porto Venere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request)
 - 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
 - Excursions & transfers

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply



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Price: £80
Cable knit blanket
Price: £65 Matching
cushions
Price: £25 each
www.johnlewis.com



• **White Company rug**
Curly haired sheepskin rug
Price: £95
www.thewhitecompany.com

Nice 'n' cosy...

It's wet and windy outside, so get cosy indoors with this pick of feel-good interior products for January



• **Toasting fork**
Price: £6.50 www.coxandcox.co.uk
• **Cadburys Breakfast Cup & Saucer**
Price: £15 www.tch.net

• **Bean bag**
Faux fur bean bag
Price: £295 www.coxandcox.co.uk



• **Hygge Candle**
Geranium and lavender candle
Price: £22 www.mintvelvet.co.uk



• **Armchair**
Buttoned linen deep armchair
Price: £645
www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk



■ An extended version of this article can be enjoyed in January's **Kent Life**... out now. Or subscribe online @ subscriptionsave.co.uk or www.buyamag.co.uk/KE

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Coalition failing despite recovery

THIS year will be the last full year of the current Parliament, and the last full year for some of our Kent MPs, some departing according to plan and some through the ballot box.

In Kent, as elsewhere across the country, the economy will dominate the pre-election debate.

We will no doubt hear claims from the Coalition parties that they have revived the economy and it is all the result of their deficit reduction policy.

The difficulty with this is that they have borrowed more than the Blair/Brown governments, have completely missed their targets with, apart from low interest rates, the weak recovery being mostly incidental to Government policy.

The signs of economic growth in Kent, which are welcome, are due to an inevitable recovery in domestic demand that is sadly sustained by increased personal borrowing and some revival of confidence based on the not very reliable increase in house prices.

The real economy is very weak. There is too little growth in exports and too little sign that Kent, and the UK in general, can explore new markets. There is too little investment in innovation and skills making it difficult to build up strong specialised products for us to export.

The European market is vital, especially for a county like Kent, and it is no help to have extended uncertainty about our relationship with the European Union.

However, there is a need to find much stronger global markets for high value British products.

For all of us in Kent, we need a national Government that puts investment and export markets first.

We need growth that is built on more than short-term borrowing and in Kent, as elsewhere, we need to ensure the benefits of growth are more equally shared across our communities.

Roger Truelove,
deputy leader of the Labour Group
on Kent County Council

Why is Manston being overlooked?

IT IS good to hear the Isle of Grain option is not on the shortlist of options for a new airport in the south east.

But it is curious that Vince Maple, leader of the Labour group on Medway Council, says (KoS 22/12), "it is positive to see there is no Kent airport among the shortlist".

Does he really regard it as positive

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Agencies didn't learn lesson of 2000 floods

WE live in a small community on the outskirts of Yalding and were cut off from the main village during the floods.

We moved into our 400-year-old house in the spring of 2000, so have now experienced two major floods.

Much has already been said and written about the response of the authorities.

I cannot comment on how good the response was generally, but we have not seen anyone in our vicinity.

However, I have witnessed wonderful community spirit within our neighbourhood and have heard much praise for the efforts of villagers and voluntary organisations who supported those worst affected.

Unfortunately, the response of the Environment Agency was little better than in 2000... and worse in some respects.

On the afternoon of December 23 they put the rivers Beult and Teise on the 'intermediate flood warning' status; the Medway was put on 'flood warning' status on the morning of December 24.

At no time was the status of these rivers raised to the highest 'severe flood warning' level.

This gave residents the mistaken impression the flooding would be less than that experienced in 2000, when the highest level of flood warning was issued.

In fact, the flooding was far

worse than 2000, with water levels some eight to nine inches higher in our house.

Fortunately, we were told what to expect by one of our neighbours, who was in direct contact with the operators of the Leigh flood barrier.

Those that relied on the Floodline information service were not so fortunate and the coastguard was later forced to call in helicopter support to evacuate residents from the nearby caravan park.

The failure of Floodline did not stop there. Subsequent status reports suggested the rivers would peak during the early hours of December 25.

In the end, water levels did not peak until just after 5pm.

Yet again the Environment Agency seems to have been overwhelmed by events.

The water flows far exceeded the design capacity of the Leigh flood barrier.

The barrier may buy a few hours for Tonbridge residents to be evacuated, but seems to do little to prevent or limit the extent of the flooding.

If the barrier is to be an effective flood prevention mechanism, its capacity needs to be increased significantly.

This comes at a cost, but continued inaction by the authorities also comes at a very heavy cost to the householders and businesses in the Medway valley.

Rob Bird, Yalding

that there is no mention of Manston?

In east Kent most of us would be delighted to find Manston being used more often, and expanding its range.

The advantages of flying straight from east Kent to the Continent are obvious, as well as the ease with which planes can land there, with no hold-ups due to lack of runway.

We may regret that the Isle of Grain is still an option.

But it is puzzling that neither Cllr Maple nor the Davies Commission seem to regard Manston as even worth mentioning.

Nicholas Reed, chairman,
www.whynotmanston.org

Blood donations just a click away

I'M sure that after all that turkey and trifle your readers are thinking forward to their New Year's resolutions for 2014.

Instead of giving something up, we're asking them to give blood.

Donating blood saves lives. It's an easy resolution to keep and is easy to get started.

During 2013, blood donors across England and north Wales helped save and transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients within the NHS and we are grateful to each and every one of them for taking the time to donate.

We're looking forward to welcoming them into our donation sessions in 2014, as they continue to save lives.

But there will be lots of your readers who haven't donated before, or haven't done so for a while, and we're asking them to come forward and register as a blood donor.

Becoming a blood donor is easy.

All people need to do is visit www.blood.co.uk, register and book an appointment at a local session.

So go on, please encourage your readers to make an important resolution this year. To save lives as a blood donor.

Jon Latham,
assistant director of marketing,
NHS Blood and Transplant

Unwanted gifts can raise funds

CHRISTMAS is a magical time of year but there are always a few gifts that don't quite take our fancy.

But one man's junk is another man's treasure. Your unwanted presents will suit someone else, so why not donate them to PDSA and help raise vital funds for sick and injured pets in your area.

Lizzie Rogers,
Maidstone PDSA

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Tankerton Slopes

by **Mick O'Reilly**
from Whitstable

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

1st Drive

Peugeot 308

Price:	from £14,495
Driving appeal:	Yet to be tested
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit

drive24.co.uk

motors
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Peugeot's 308 for 2014

If we read the motor industry's 2013 end-of-term reports, Peugeot's might be: "Tries hard, has flair, but lacks a spark – we hope for more in 2014."

For the ambitious French marque has had a so-so year, despite interest injected by the brilliant 208 supermini.

Small cars generate volume and Peugeot will be pleased to end the year with a slight increase in its 5 per cent UK market share, but greater profitability and another chunk of volume comes from the family hatchback sector where the brand has stuttered.

The outgoing 308 – a heroic yet flawed rework of the woeful 307 – simply didn't cut the Dijon mustard for most of its life, leaving Peugeot dealers to perform their own heroics selling the rest of a diverse range.

But it's payback time for them now, with the all-new 308 arriving in showrooms.

Peugeot UK claims it's a new sector benchmark, but it's no VW Golf killer and the Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra are well-entrenched, too, but Peugeot dealers will like its strong all-round appeal.

It looks slick and classy inside and out, with an environmentally-

Other view...

the Petrolhead

Looks good, and something of return to old 80s-style Peugeot 'wheel at each corner' design. I'm betting a sporty GTi-style model arrives soon.

the Woman Driver

I have a weak spot for chic French designs and this is far better than the previous two Peugeot generations in this market sector.

the Eco-warrior

It has all the right environmental credentials, with the bonus it is also good-looking and likely to be cheap to run.

friendly aerodynamic shape and high-quality cabin materials – well up to the high standards Peugeot has set lately.

It's a roomy and comfortable car to be in, too, and the 470-litre boot, extending to 1,309-litre with rear seats down, is one of the biggest in class, despite the car's relatively compact looks.

It uses a new modular platform, which will underpin many other new Peugeots, and a raft of new technologies, allowing it to be up to 140 kilos lighter than before – equivalent to two adult passengers.

Added to a long wheelbase with short overhangs, this makes the 308 light and sweet handling, not to mention economical and eco-friendly.

Prices start at £14,495, with a typically diverse array of powerful and flexible petrol and diesel engines, most with stop-start systems to keep CO2 emissions low.

The eco star for now is the 1.6-litre 92PS (90bhp) unit offering a road-tax-exempt 93g/km of CO2 emissions and an impressive 78.4mpg economy on the combined cycle, but Peugeot is promising a BlueHdi model by spring 2014, offering 82g/km and a staggering 91.1mpg respectively – the race is on for someone to smash

the 100mpg barrier with a conventional family car.

Trim levels are familiar – Access, Active, Allure and Feline – with the two middle ones expected to find most favour.

Standard kit includes air-con, remote central-locking, cruise-control with speed-limiter, DAB digital radio, LED daylight running lights and Bluetooth connectivity.

Trading up to Active, though, brings dual-zone air-con, rear parking sensors, integrated 9.7-inch touch-screen – easily the largest in the sector – and sat-nav.

The Feline flagship model also gets Peugeot's impressive Cielo full panoramic glass roof – a winning feature with buyers of the brand's other key models.

I thought the touch-screen a bit fussy, even if it will probably become second nature to most people, but I wonder if some buyers will be disappointed that a CD-player is not fitted as standard.

We all know that USB, Aux or Bluetooth links to music on our phones and other mobile devices is the coming thing, but I wonder if Peugeot has been too quick to consign onboard CDs to the same rubbish bin as cassette tapes.

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ŠKODA Yeti S 1.2 TSI 105PS and ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor S 1.2 TSI 105PS start from £16,600 OTR. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Models shown are ŠKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI SE with optional Candy White paint, bi-xenon headlights and silver roof rails and ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor 2.0 TDI Elegance with optional Jungle Green metallic paint, 17" Matterhorn alloy wheels and part-silver roof rails. Models shown may vary from UK specification. Official fuel consumption for the Yeti range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 28.8 (9.8) to 54.3 (5.2); Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6) to 67.3 (4.2); Combined 36.2 (7.8) to 61.4 (4.6). CO₂ range emissions 184 to 119g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



Volkswagen's coupé has proved to be a sporting car that's easy to live with – even in its most scorching guise, says **Steve Loader**

IT'S a thrill to be given the keys of some new loony car at a launch event, have some brief fun and then give it back.

But the real work of a motoring writer is a few days' road-testing, finding out what it's really like to live with a car, irrespective of its sporty handling, power or the glamorous image it conveys to the rest of the world.

Roads are so crowded and restricted that the joy of 'motoring' is now elusive, so why endure the costs, bone-hard chassis, cramped conditions and pitiful rear passenger and luggage capacity of a classic coupé when you don't have to?

The latest VW Scirocco has been an admirable alternative to that stereotype since launch in 2008.

I've yet to hear a good explanation why VW dropped the model in 1992, after two generations and almost 20 years, but it returned to reiterate the style plus usability of the 1970s original from Italian stylist Giorgetto Giugiaro.

The Scirocco MkIII (£20,525) is muscular, wide and aerodynamic as a coupé should be yet still carries four in comfort plus luggage.

They might whinge about lifting that luggage over the high boot lip but not about the space available there or in the robustly-finished cabin itself.

The lucky person behind the wheel can then enjoy the Scirocco's balance and handling to the full, while his or her passengers remark on a ride that is naturally taut but not jarringly unforgiving.

Such a balance is hard enough to achieve in a sporting car; that VW's special projects people went a stage further in 2010 to create the 'R' model flagship (from £31,985) tested here is even more impressive.

It would be easy to dismiss the car as a cosmetic exercise, wearing

Ultimate Scirocco's practical triumph



IT'S SPORTY BUT NICE: VW Scirocco's cabin boasts a remarkable amount of space, allowing both driver and passengers a chance to enjoy this super car

bespoke bumpers, grille, side-skirts, wing-mirrors, wheels, rear diffuser and rear wing.

In truth, these sit well on a car and even the 'R' badging is discreet, but the changes run deeper than that.

Most obvious is the engine: a heavily-revised 2.0-litre, four-

cylinder petrol unit available in standard Sciroccos, with an uprated turbocharger, which allows 265PS (262bhp) and lots more low-down punch – an ensemble about 20 per cent more powerful than the standard Scirocco GTS performance flagship.

KWE

VW Scirocco R 2.0 TSI DSG

Price:	£33,385
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★
Road tax:	£260/year
Best rival:	VW Golf GTI

Kent dealers

Motorline:

Tun Wells 0844 8227217

EuroCanterbury:

Canterbury 01227 826800

Ah, but how does it apply such power through the front wheels without them scrabbling or making the steering shudder with the dreaded torque steer?

Like some others, VW has used an electronically-controlled front differential to prevent everything going flaky, meaning the R can hit 62mph in just six seconds with the standard six-speed manual gearbox or 5.8 seconds if equipped with VW's twin-clutch DSG auto/manual – as fitted to our test vehicle.

If you are thinking about the R, then the DSG ought to be part of your thoughts; it adds £1,400 to the price but you get smooth auto changes in stop-start town traffic or fast manual flicks on open roads via the stick or F1 paddles on the steering wheel.

And just when you think you couldn't have more fun, you remember there is a 'Sport' button to ramp up performance even more.

The electronic steering weights up beautifully to match the car and driver's mood, too, while a tweaked chassis still delivers superb handling with a respectable ride.

Not surprisingly, though, such a mood will trash the official combined cycle 35.3mpg and underline the hefty 187g/km of CO₂ emissions, but economy is impressive for a car of this ilk and underlines what I've implied all along: the Scirocco is a coupé of both style and good sense.

FirstGEAR

Motoring news



New Mini still a Mini

BMW has unveiled the next-generation Mini, plus sizeable investment in three new UK plants ahead of its spring arrival.

While the new car resembles its predecessors, much is being made of its modular platform, enabling more variants to be spun easily from the standard hatchback design.

Powertrains will include economical three-cylinder engines for the first time and a dashboard with new interactive displays.

Prices start from £15,300.



EcoBoost for SUV

FORD has been persistently late to the UK SUV market, so it's no surprise its new EcoBoost (from £14,995) soon joins a mini-SUV segment where the Nissan Juke, Vauxhall Mokka and Renault Captur are already established.

However, thanks to its Fiesta-based platform, Ford's newcomer is tipped to be a good drive while also making a style statement with its retro-style funky-chunky 4x4 looks, including a tailgate-slung spare wheel.



A hotter Cascada

NOT content with its smart looks – top up or down – Vauxhall has endowed its full four-seat Cascada convertible with a flagship engine, a 200PS (197bhp) version of the 1.6 direct-injection petrol turbo already available in 170PS format.

The new unit also complements the lively 195PS BiTurbo diesel, but Vauxhall is making big claims about refinement that, along with the Cascada's elegance and upmarket ambience, gives credibility against premium rivals.



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Kent on Sunday

Career opportunities at MidKent College

We currently have vacancies within the following area

Brickwork

We are looking for an energetic and self-motivated individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working in Brickwork with Building apprentices. Sound industrial experience across a range of construction projects, using a variety of materials: Bricks, Blocks, Concrete and Masonry.

The post will require an effective team player who is able to demonstrate and supervise practical skills in the college workshop, set assessments and provide feedback.

You will require a craft/vocational Qualification relevant to trade; a D32/3 or an Assessors Award would be desirable, but not essential.

This post is for sickness cover over the next term.

Plumbing

An opportunity has arisen within the Construction & Building Services Faculty for a Sessional Lecturer to contribute to the delivery development and teaching of Plumbing, Heating and Gas programmes, for two terms. This post will offer an exciting opportunity to develop and deliver Building Services programmes.

The ideal candidates must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Plumbing & Heating Services Industry; have sufficient teaching experience and resources to deliver Level 1-3 programmes.

You will need a recognised teaching qualification; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Mandatory Awards in Water & Unvented installations and be able to assess candidates

Functional Skills

The College is seeking an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Maths and English qualifications across all the College qualifications.

The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead extracurricular and enrichment activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the Faculty.

The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching English and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification

Please contact hr@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



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Location: Medway Campus

Closing: 14/01/2014

The Faculty for Advanced Computing & Engineering is looking for an energetic, self-motivated and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working with Engineering Work Base Learners. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and can liaise with employers to co-ordinate training programmes and assessments. The role also requires effective communication skills to confidently review candidates' progress and set targets for successful timely completions on Intermediate and Advanced Level Apprenticeship frameworks.

You will require D32/D33 or A1 Assessor Awards and Vocational Qualifications relevant to trade. D34 or V1 Verifiers Award would be desirable, but not essential.

To apply for this vacancy please contact
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.
The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02346/FUL The Barracks Wisley Green, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Conversion of main dwelling to 3 self contained apartments, the squash court to 3 self contained apartments (including construction of new dwelling), the east building to 1 self contained apartment, reinstatement of barn to form 1 bed apartment, new garden wall, garages and car parking (LB) (DEVPLN) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 7 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 04 January 2014



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/01048 Erection of a replacement dwelling (existing dwelling and outbuilding to be demolished)
Sweet Briar Cottage, Rusham Road, Shatterling, CT3 1JL SLB

DOV/13/01068 Erection of extensions and alterations of Walton House and outbuildings (existing extension to be demolished)
Walton House, Sandwich Road, Eastry, Sandwich, CT13 0DP LCN

DOV/13/01071 Retrospective application for the erection of a terrace of four dwellings, construction of vehicular access and associated car parking
33 Middle Deal Road, Deal, CT14 9RG ARW

Reason for Advert Codes:-

ARW – Affects a Public Right of Way **LBC** – The proposal affects a Listed Building
SLB – To affect the setting of a Listed Building

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

David Armstrong trading as Armstrong Haulage of 11 Medway Road, Crayford, Dartford, Kent DA1 4PN is applying for a licence to use Durable House Business Centre, Crabtree Manorway South, Belvedere, Kent DA17 6AB as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 13 JANUARY 2014.

SW/13/1347:

Change of use from an NHS Community Trust Facility to 8 No. one, two and three bedroom houses – Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Trust, Trinity House Community, Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; REASON 1

SW/13/1482:

Replacement of existing vertical sliding single glazed timber windows, with white woodgrain PVCU, double glazed, vertical sliding windows in same style including exterior bars and mechanically jointed – 30 Orchard Place, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/13/1511:

Extension comprising lecture hall, entrance lobby and stairwell to existing Sixth Form Centre – Queen Elizabeth School, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1, 2 & 3

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0858/SH - Stoneleigh House The Tram Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1QS - Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the re-development of the site for 14 residential units, with associated parking

Y13/1152/SH - Ashurst The Street Lympe Hythe Kent - Erection of a side conservatory.

Y13/1200/SH - Flat 3 84 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2PP - Installation of replacement windows.

Y13/1206/SH# - Land adjoining 143 Queens Road Littlestone Kent - Erection of a part two, part three and part five storey building of 18 apartments and lower ground floor office (Class B1(a)) space with associated access, parking and landscaping.

Y13/1262/SH - 15 High Street Dymchurch Kent TN29 0NH - Erection of a rear staircase to first floor and other external alterations, following removal of existing rear entrance extension

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff.

Senior Staff Nurse

Ophthalmology and Out-patient Clinics - Part Time - Based in Ashford
Closing date for applications – Monday 20th January 2014

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent
Minimum of three years experience in a surgical ward/outpatients environment

Staff Nurse

Ward- 30 hours per week - Based in Ashford
Closing date for applications – Monday 20th January 2014

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/ medical procedures

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Liz Justice – 01233 616202 Ext: 86202

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Wright East Kent Medical Services Ltd

Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG

Tel.: 01304 245961 Fax: 01304 207320 E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website

www.spencerprivatehospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check



“We grow people”

“An outstanding school” (Ofsted July 2010 & October 2012)

We are currently looking for a...

TEACHING ASSISTANT

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£15,189 - £19,317 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,189)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic?

Can you make a difference?

If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.

Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am – 3.45pm), term time only. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

**Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)**

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 20.9.13

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/13/1928/S - MARDEN CRICKET & HOCKEY CLUB, STANLEY ROAD, MARDEN, KENT - Erection of 124 dwellings with parking, vehicular and pedestrian access, and associated hard and soft landscaping. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/2003/S - SWAN INN, BROAD STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AJ - Change of use and conversion of existing public house to a single dwellinghouse including demolition of part of rear addition and erection of new rear extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/2008/S - LINDEN FARM, STOCKETT LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0OD - Outline planning application with all matters reserved, apart from means of access, for a mixed use development for both the establishment of outdoor community facilities & for residential development of up to 40 dwellings. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/2092/N - LENHAM SANDPIT, SANDWAY ROAD, LENHAM, KENT, ME17 2NA - Hybrid application for outline planning permission for the erection of 5 no. Eco dwellings including warden accommodation with parking and access and full planning permission for the change of use of land as a community open space with fishing lake, parking and access. **Reason: 7, 9**

MA/13/2099/N - SPRINGFIELD PARK, ROYAL ENGINEERS ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Erection of Class A1 retail development (with ancillary cafe), petrol filling station, supporting retail (A1-A3), doctors' surgery (Class D1 and d associated servicing car parking landscaping and access arrangement. **Reason: 1, 6, 9**

MA/13/2112/S - LAND TO THE SOUTH OF, OLIVER ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT - An application for minor material amendments to application MA/12/2106 (Erection of 53 residential dwellings incorporating access, foul water pumping station, drainage infrastructure, nature conservation area, open space and landscaping) through variation of condition 29 of that permission involving amendments to the highway layout being straightening of central road, new central pathway, and new internal emergency access to western edge of site. **Reason: 1, 7**

MA/13/2115/N - 102, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1EH - Conversion of building to provide 3no flats including partial demolition of existing single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration of side and rear elevations. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/2116/N - 102, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1EH - Listed building consent is sought for the partial demolition of existing single storey rear addition, internal alterations and alterations to fenestration of side and rear elevations. **Reason: 2, 3**

MA/13/2124/S - LAND SOUTH OF, COURT LODGE ROAD, HARRIETSHAM, KENT - Outline application for the erection of 40 dwellings and associated works with garages/carports, public open space/play space, an estate road, access and pedestrian links with access to be considered and appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/13/2130/N - THE SHANT HOTEL, EAST SUTTON ROAD, EAST SUTTON, KENT, ME17 3DT - Erection of three dwellings with associated garage buildings, access and landscaping. **Reason: 9**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **19th January 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 5th January 2014



HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend The Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2000 by extending the times of operation of the pedestrian zone in the following roads in Herne Bay:

MORTIMER STREET	between its junctions with William Street and North Street
WILLIAM STREET	between its junctions with High Street and Mortimer Street
BANK STREET	between its junctions with High Street and Charles Street

Make the restriction limiting access to the above streets apply from 5.30am to 6.30pm on Saturday instead of 10.30am to 4.30pm as at present.

This change is proposed in order to accommodate the market in these streets.

Full details are contained in the draft order which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the order and a copy of any orders which will be amended by the proposed order, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices in Military Road, Canterbury or William Street, Herne Bay during normal office hours.

If you wish to object to the proposed order you should write, stating the grounds for your objection, to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW. Alternatively you may email your response to richard.jenkins@canterbury.gov.uk

Your submission must be received by noon on **Monday 27 January 2014**.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed order or require further information please send an email to the above address or telephone 01227 862 544 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

This Notice is published on behalf of
Kent County Council
Highways and Transportation
Enterprise and Environment
County Hall,
Maidstone ME14 2XQ



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE23 IN THE PARISH OF CHILHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE23 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath AE23, between its junction with the A28 and its junction with Mountain Street from the 2nd January 2014.

The path will be closed for six months, although it is expected that the closure period will be extended.

The path is to be closed because a large concrete bridge is damaged and awaiting repair and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE323 & AU17 IN THE PARISH OF WYE WITH HINXHILL

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE323 & AU17 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpaths AE323 and AU17, between the junction of AE323 and Blackwall Road and the junction of AU17 and Public Footpath AU18 from the 2nd January 2014.

The path will be closed for six months, although it is expected that the closure will be extended.

The path is to be closed because a concrete bridge is damaged and awaiting repair and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD & DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DR215 AND SD215 IN THE PARISHES OF LONGFIELD & NEWBARN AND HARTLEY

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DR215 AND SD215 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths DR215 and SD215, between the junction of DR215 and Main Road and the junction of SD215 with Public Footpath SD295 from the 17th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen earlier.

The path is to be closed because works are planned to upgrade the footpath level crossing and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Main Road, Gorse Wood

Road, Public Footpath DR213A and SD295, and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF GRAVESHAM

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU42 IN THE PARISH OF GRAVESEND

PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU42 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath NU42, between its junction with The Shore at NGR TQ625 746 and its junction with The High Street at NGR TQ 621 743 from the 30th December 2013.

The path will be closed for six months, although it is expected that the closure will be extended.

The path is to be closed because ongoing development and industrial works on the site are likely to be a danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY KH164 IN THE PARISH OF HOLLINGBOURNE

BYWAY KH164 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Byway KH164, between Pilgrims Way and Colyers Wents from the 23 December 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because works are being undertaken to improve drainage.

Pedestrian and equestrian access will be maintained north of the junction with Public Footpath KH640 at NGR841 566.

The alternative route for vehicles is via Pilgrims Way, Hollingbourne Hill and Admirals Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact David Munn

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 5th January 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



To advertise in this section **01303 817150**

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

**CRANBROOK ROAD, TENTERDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cranbrook Road, Tenterden.

A closure is planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 6 weeks.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Cranbrook Road, Tenterden will be closed between Goodshill Farm and Little Halden Place.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Mill Pond Lane and Chennell Park Road.

The alternative route is via Cranbrook Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road, Biddenden Road, A28 Ashford Road, Rolvenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

**WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, as defined below. Closures are planned as follows

Friday 24 January 2014 from 23:00 hours through until Monday 27 January at 05:00 hours

Tuesday 4 March from 23:00 hours through until 07:00 hours

Saturday 22 March at 01:00 hours through until Monday 24 March at 05:30 hours

Tuesday 29 April from 23:00 hours through until 05:30 hours
Bridge Street will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing.

There will be no direct access between the A28 and Wye during these closures.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

**CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM,
CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install electrical cabling in a trench across the road, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Chatham Hatch Level Crossing, Chatham, Canterbury.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 2 nights between 23:00 hours through to 07:00 hours each night.

Hatch Road, Chatham will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane, Town Lane and Hatch Lane.

**PATRIXBOURNE ROAD, BRIDGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Patrixbourne Road, Bridge.

A closure is planned to commence from Monday 6 January 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Patrixbourne Road will be closed between the junctions with High Street and Riverside Close.

The alternative route is via High Street, Town Hill, Bifrons Hill, The Street and Patrixbourne Road.

**SHALMSFORD STREET FOOTCROSSING, THRUXTED
LANE, CHARTHAM (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS &
CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to maintain and upgrade the crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit pedestrians and cyclists on Shalmsford Street Footcrossing, Thruxted Lane, Chatham.

A closure of Shalmsford Street Footcrossing is planned to commence from Friday 24 January 2014 at 08:00 hours through until Friday 31 January at 16:00 hours.

The foot-crossing linking the 2 sections of Thruxted Lane, Chatham will be closed in the vicinity of the railway line.

The alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists is via Shalmsford Street and Bobbin Lodge Hill.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

**CANNON STREET, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide an upgraded gas supply to a property conversion, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cannon Street, Dover.

A closure is planned to commence from 20 January 2014 at 10:00 hours through until Wednesday 22 January at 08:00 hours.

Cannon Street will be closed from Market Square to the vicinity of number 4.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

There no is alternative route during the closure. The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Cannon Street and Biggin Street will be suspended from the junction with Pencester Road, to allow essential access within the specified times allowed.

**LOWER ROAD, TEMPLE EWELL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow a detailed bridge inspection to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Lower Road, Temple Ewell.

A closure is planned for Sunday 12 January 2014 from 08:00 hours to 20:00 hours, with the road re-opened as soon as works have been completed.

Lower Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, London Road (Temple Ewell), A256 London Road (River), Crabble Road, Lewisham Road, Minnis Lane, Lower Road (River), Alkham Road and Lower Road.

**RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF
DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of quay wall refurbishment works as part of the Sandwich Town Tidal Defences, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit certain traffic on part of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

Ramsgate Road, Sandwich will be closed to southbound traffic (i.e. towards Sandwich) from the junction with Willowbank as far as and including the Toll Bridge.

This closure is planned to commence from 25 January 2014 with an estimated completion date of 25 February 2014.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich Bypass, Ash Road, Strand Street.

There will be No Right Turn from The Quay into Ramsgate Road

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to lift these restrictions outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESEND AREA

**PARROCK STREET GRAVESEND
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Parrock Street Gravesend, on the following dates each for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Sunday 12th January 2014

Sunday 19th January 2014

The road will be closed between Saddington Street and The Grove.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via to be Saddington Street, The Grove and Parrock Street.

A separate diversion for Heavy Goods Vehicles will be as follows :-

East Miton Road, Rochester Road, Old Road East, Parrock Road and Rochester Street.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

**LOCKSKINNERS, CHIDDINGSTONE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a culvert inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lockskinners, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks, on or after 8th January 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Gilwyns culvert and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: The Village, Wellers Town Road, Ryewell Hill, Hoath Corner, Truggers Lane, Cowden Pound to Truggers and Wilderness Lane, Hever and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

**CANTERBURY ROAD, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of overnight bridge maintenance works requiring temporary traffic lights, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Canterbury Road, Folkestone.

Canterbury Road will be closed in the vicinity of its junction with A2033 Dover Road.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from Monday 6 January 2014 for up to 7 weeks, between 21:00 hours and 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Princess Street and Alexandra Street.

**PLEYDELL GARDENS, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Pleydell Gardens, Folkestone.

A closure is planned to commence from 20 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The northern (westbound) side of Pleydell Gardens will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Cheriton Place.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of the northern side of Pleydell Gardens will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Cheriton Place, Sandgate Road and Shakespeare Terrace.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

**SANDLING ROAD, SALTWOOD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Sandling Road, Saltwood.

A closure of Sandling Road is planned for 20 January 2014 for up to 12 weeks.

The section to be closed is between with Freshfield Lane and the entrance to Brockhill Country Park, with access from either direction up to where the road is closed.

There will be no direct access between the M20 / A20 and Saltwood / Hythe using this route.

The alternative route is via Sandling Road, A20 Ashford Road, Junction 11 Stanford Interchange, Ashford Road, A261 Hythe Road, London Road, Barrack Hill, North Road, Bartholomew Lane, The Green and Sandling Road.

There is a possibility that the works can be done using temporary traffic lights rather than a road closure, but this will not be known until works commence.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

**SLADE ROAD, DODDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Slade Road, Doddington.

A closure is planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 5 days, with the road re-opened once the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Slade Road will be closed to through traffic between the junctions with Lady Margaret Manor Road and Seed Road.

The alternative route is via Lady Margaret Manor Road, Frangbury and Seed Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

**SPENCER STREET, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow safe access to the underground phone cable network for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Spencer Street, Ramsgate.

A closure is planned to commence on Wednesday 8 January 2014 between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

Spencer Street will be closed between the junctions with Spencer Street and Addington Street.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Townley Street, Royal Road and Spencer Square.

**SWINBURNE AVENUE, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the use of temporary traffic lights during the construction of a new signalled pedestrian crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Swinburne Avenue, Broadstairs.

A closure is planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Swinburne Avenue will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Ramsgate Road, with access up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The alternative route is via A255 Ramsgate Road, Luton Avenue and Seaford Road.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

**BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a sewer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton, on or after 11 January 2014 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Downderry Way.

The alternative route is via St Peters Road, New Road and A20 London Road.

**PIERCE MILL LANE, HADLOW
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY TO INSTALL A NEW GAS SERVICE, KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HAS MADE AN ORDER PROHIBITING THROUGH TRAFFIC ON PIERCE MILL LANE, HADLOW, ON OR AFTER 6 JANUARY 2014 FOR UP TO 5 DAYS OR UNTIL THE WORKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

The road will be closed outside Old Mill Workshop.

The alternative route is via Hatches Lane, Addestead Road and Tonbridge Road.

**ST MARYS ROAD, WROTHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Marys Road, Wrotham, on or after 6 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside number 14 to Borough Green Road.

The alternative route is via High Street and Borough Green Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 5th January 2014

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



From cup runs to sackings, resignations and promotions, 2013 certainly kept sports fans on the edge



JANUARY

MARTIN Allen sets about strengthening his Gillingham side for the final half of the season.

In come Brentford defender Leon Legge, AFC Wimbledon midfielder Steven Gregory and Coventry City striker Cody McDonald, the latter on loan; out go Jack Payne on loan to Peterborough United, Danny Jackman to Kidderminster and Connor Essam to Crawley Town.

The county's most promising Olympic hopefuls tested their talents at the Youth Olympic Festival in Australia. On show were Hythe hockey star Ross Gilham-Jones and Maidstone gymnast Courtney Tulloch.

Gillingham's Steve Douglas overcame a heart attack to

stand on the oche at the BDO World Darts Championship. The 35-year-old had emergency surgery before Christmas, but defied the odds to make it to the championships at Lakeside in Surrey.

Former Chelsea star Jon Hareley linked up with Ryman One South side Maidstone United after his contract ended at Portsmouth. The childhood friend of Stones boss Jay Saunders was born in the county town.

Chris Kinnear returned to Dover Athletic from Margate after the Whites sacked Nicky Forster following a poor run of form. It is his second spell at the club, having had a happy 10 years in charge until leaving in 1995.



FEBRUARY

INTERNATIONAL football came to Kent, with England C taking on Turkey in the semi-finals of the International Challenge Trophy.

The non-league Three Lions lost to a late goal at Dartford's Princes Park, where Turkish fans (above) made it a night to remember.

Ebbsfleet United's Preston Edwards played in goal, with Welling United stopper Sam Mott on the bench.

Kent bowler Matt Coles was sent home from the England

Lions tour of Australia for unprofessional conduct.

The 23-year-old was given his marching orders with Durham all-rounder Ben Stokes following disciplinary hearings.

Meanwhile, Kent's Darren Stevens took the crucial wicket as his side Dhaka Gladiators beat the Chittagong Kings to clinch the Bangladesh Premier League title.

The all-rounder ran out Enamul Haque to end things in the 16th over of the match.



MARCH

COACH Jimmy Adams extended his contract at Kent County Cricket Club by an extra year and harboured hopes of the next generation taking the county forward.

A new face arrived at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, in the form of ex-Somerset all-rounder Callum Haggatt.

He was told he had two years to live in 2010, when a routine heart scan revealed he had heart problems.

But after successful surgery he was able to get back to cricket.

Martin Allen continued his good relationship with Gills

fans by revealing how he responded to every letter, sometimes by phone call.

"I had a wonderful letter from a supporter who told me the results were rubbish and we need to get a goalscorer. It did make me smile," he said.

Kent League side Tunbridge Wells booked a date at Wembley with an epic extra-time win over AFC Shildon in their two-leg FA Vase semi-final, only the second time a Kent side had made it to the final, following Deal Town's win over Chippenham Town in 2000.

Another year of highs and



JULY

TWO familiar faces returned to Priestfield.

First through the door was Cody McDonald, who agreed to cancel his contract at Coventry City. He scored four goals in seven games on loan with the Gills at the end of the title-winning season while also spending the entire 2010/11 season on loan from Norwich City when he scored 26 times.

Also back at the club was striker Adebayo Akinfenwa, who partnered McDonald

during the 2010/11 season before moving to Northampton Town.

Teenage sprinter Dina Asher-Smith claimed two gold medals at the European Junior Championships in Italy. The 17-year-old Blackheath and Bromley star ran in the second leg in the 4x100m team who broke the Great Britain national record in the semi-final and bettered the feat again the final.

She also stormed to victory in the 200m final.



AUGUST

GILLINGHAM were dealt a blow as right-back Matt Fish limped out of the opening game of the season against Colchester United after just three minutes.

The Gills lost 0-1 and Fish ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament, ruling him out for the majority of the season.

Kent star Darren Stevens was charged by the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit for allegedly failing to report a match-fixing-related approach when playing in the Bangladesh Premier League.

The 37-year-old won the tournament for the second year running with Dhaka.

Adam Gemili was just pipped

to a bronze medal in the final of the 200m at the World Athletics Championship in Moscow.

The Dartford sprinter finished fifth, just 0.04 seconds outside a medal place. He also suffered disappointment in the 4x100m relay team as they were disqualified after finishing third for an illegal baton change.

There was better news for Blackheath and Bromley's Dina Asher-Smith, who with the 4x100m relay team finished fourth but was promoted to third after France, who finished second, were disqualified.

Matt Coles quit Kent to join Hampshire after rejecting the offer of a new contract.



SEPTEMBER

KENT tied up the futures of youngsters Sam Northeast, Daniel Bell-Drummond, Callum Haggatt and Fabian Cowdrey.

There was also a permanent deal for Mitch Claydon, who played for the county on loan from Durham in the summer, while another bowler, David Griffiths, joined the attack from Hampshire.

Meanwhile, batsman Michael Powell retired from the game. The 36-year-old spent two seasons with Kent after impressively serving

Glamorgan for 15 seasons.

Rowing stars Tom Ransley, from Ashford, and Dan Ritchie, from Herne Bay, were part of Great Britain's first gold-medal-winning men's eight at a World Championship.

They just pipped Germany to the title in a close-fought race in South Korea.

Gillingham brought in Charlton midfielder Danny Hollands on loan and chairman Paul Scally sent an open letter to fans asking them to back the club after a difficult start to the season.

of their seats. **Greg Miles** takes a quick look back at how the county's sportsmen and women fared...



APRIL

HISTORY was created at Priestfield, where Gillingham win promotion to League One with a 1-0 victory over Torquay United courtesy of Danny Kedwell's strike.

Gills fans had to wait two weeks to clinch the title, though, as a loss at Cheltenham Town delayed the trophy celebrations, which finally came the following week after a 2-2 draw against AFC Wimbledon.

It was the club's first title in 49 years and only the second in their history.

Ryman One South side Sittingbourne decided to

move away from Central Park after striking a deal with Kent League side Woodstock Sports, three miles from their home.

Ebbsfleet United revealed a need for immediate investment; initial talks were promising with Canary Islands man Carlos Kabir Karani.

Canterbury finished third in the Women's Hockey League play-offs with a 3-2 win over Surbiton. Their hopes of clinching a spot in European competition ended with a 5-1 loss to Reading in their first play-off match.



MAY

SPEEDWAY returned to Kent at Sittingbourne's Central Park stadium with a track created inside the greyhound circuit.

The team, the Kent Kings, compete in the National League.

Tunbridge Wells's day at Wembley didn't go to plan as they lost 2-1 to the much-fancied Spennymoor Town in the final of the FA Vase.

Josh Stanford equalised with a well-taken volley 13 minutes from time in front of a crowd of 17,000, 12,000 of whom were Wells fans.

Andy Hessenthaler quit his role as director of football at Gillingham. He was given the post after agreeing to step

down as manager in May 2012.

Ditton's Barry Hawkins got close to an almighty upset in the final of snooker's World Championship, losing 18-12 to legendary Ronnie O'Sullivan. He did bank a loser's cheque of £125,000, though.

New investors appeared on the horizon at financially-stricken Ebbsfleet United as Kuwaiti group KEH Sports Ltd, fronted by former Charlton Athletic chairman Peter Varney, started talks.

Meanwhile, Fleet boss Liam Daish left after eight years at the club following discussions with the group. He guided them to the FA Trophy at Wembley in 2008.



JUNE

FORMER Dover Athletic assistant manager Steve Brown took over at Ebbsfleet United as the Kuwaiti take-over was finalised.

Kent brought in Australian-born bowler Mitch Claydon on loan from Durham as cover for injured former Durham team-mate Mark Davies.

Kent became world-record-holders with an epic fightback against Sussex in the Yorkshire Bank 40.

The Spitfires chased down the Sharks' 336-5 to win with nine balls remaining to set the new record run-chase. It was thanks to another huge knock from Darren Stevens, who hit a century from 44 balls.

World number two Test bowler Vernon Philander joined Kent for their T20 campaign. The South African cited former Kent player Justin Kemp as a big influence in his decision.

Royal Cinque Ports and Prince's golf clubs hosted the 118th Amateur Championships. North Foreland member Max Orrin made it as far as the semi-finals, where he lost out to runner-up Toni Hakula, who was beaten by Garrick Porteous in the final.

Gillingham signed former loan striker Antonio German on a permanent deal after his release from Brentford.

lows for our world of sport



OCTOBER

MARTIN Allen paid the price for a poor start to the season and was sacked at Gillingham.

Although results had been poor, it was a surprise move after the Gills had recently picked up two wins on the bounce against Crewe and MK Dons.

Chairman Paul Scally turned to former boss Peter Taylor to take over on an interim basis.

Taylor, a one-time England manager, guided the Gills to the old First Division after winning promotion via the play-offs in the 1999/00 season. He left weeks after the game to manage Leicester City in the Premier League.

After a season of near domination and setting a new record for series race wins, Shane Byrne missed out on the British Superbike Championship title at Brands Hatch.

The Sittingbourne ace let things slip in the final three rounds and held just a point's lead before the final weekend of races. Alex Lowes took the victory in the final race.

New Romney runner Lisa Dobriskey was dealt a blow in missing out on the next cycle of funding. She was not deemed by UK Athletics as having the potential to compete for a medal at Rio in 2016.



NOVEMBER

PETER Taylor was given the Gillingham job on a permanent basis until the end of the season after steady things at Priestfield.

There was no joy in the FA Cup, however, as his side crashed out in the first round after a replay with Conference North part-timers Brackley Town.

Ashford's World Superbike rider Leon Camier lost his place with FIXI Crescent Suzuki. The 27-year-old had spent two seasons with the team, impressing in the second term despite a serious foot injury that sidelined him for several weeks.

James Tredwell announced his decision to step down as Kent captain to focus on his England career.

Former skipper Rob Key took his place, with young star Sam Northeast named the new vice-captain.

The county was given planning permission to redevelop the Worsley Road Ground in Beckenham, with a 2,000-seater stand, fitness facilities, astro turf pitch and tennis courts included. Work will finish by the end of 2014.

Olympic-gold-medallist boxer James DeGale won his third fight at Bluewater's Glow complex on points over American Dyah Davis.

Chatham-born gymnast Kat Driscoll won two world titles, taking the synchronised trampolining title and the team event at the World Trampoline Championships in Bulgaria.



DECEMBER

HOLCOMBE players Maddie Hinch and Laura Unsworth helped England to a bronze medal in the Hockey World League in Argentina.

Unsworth scored the opening goal of the game against the hosts, who drew level and forced a shoot-out.

Goalkeeper Hinch saved two shots as England won 4-2. She was also named goalkeeper of the tournament. Former Canterbury captain Susannah Townsend was also involved in the game.

Ryman One South side Whitstable Town made it as far

as they had ever been in the FA Trophy before being knocked out by Ebbsfleet United, who stole a 2-1 win at the Belmont with a last-minute winner.

Olympian Jack Green announced he would take a break from athletics in 2014 after suffering depression.

Margate sacked former Gillingham midfielder Simon Osborn as manager and brought in Terry Brown as his replacement. Brown was in charge at AFC Wimbledon when they completed their fairytale by returning to the Football League in 2011.

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11 Reg Chevrolet Spark 1.0i LS 5dr 31,161 miles	£4,503	10 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr 21,732 miles	£8,551
10 Reg Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr 30,055 miles	£7,472	11 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Elegance 5dr 6,978 miles	£7,941
60 Reg Fiat Panda 1.2 Dynamic ECO 5dr 33,758 miles	£4,243	59 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V 3 5dr 24,248 miles	£5,242
12 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec [82] 5dr 30,399 miles	£7,812	10 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDI CR 90 SE 5dr 24,409 miles	£7,762
10 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr 27,321 miles	£7,623	12 Reg Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr 34,454 miles	£11,823
09 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 37,519 miles	£6,910	12 Reg Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr 34,473 miles	£11,883
60 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 4,474 miles	£8,550	13 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.0i Jam 3dr 3,425 miles	£8,551
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5dr 24,432 miles	£10,272	62 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.2 12V [68] ecoFLEX S [AC] 5dr 5,632 miles	£6,551
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 30,692 miles	£9,882	60 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.2 16V Design 5dr 7,162 miles	£6,002
13 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 5,210 miles	£12,423	62 Reg Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi [184] SE Auto 5dr 8,091 miles	£16,953
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr 31,287 miles	£7,112	62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr 7,773 miles	£12,541
10 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr 22,234 miles	£7,122	80 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.4i [60 PS] LS 4dr 80,786 miles	£100
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Titanium 5dr 54,897 miles	£6,912	62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.4i 16V SRI 5dr 12,100 miles	£9,311
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Zetec 5dr 13,722 miles	£7,853	62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite 5dr 22,694 miles	£10,233
12 Reg Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Zetec Powershift 5dr 30,341 miles	£11,083	13 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Auto 5dr 10,786 miles	£12,183
10 Reg Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto [Climate] 5dr 22,011 miles	£5,633	12 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Exclusive [115] Auto 5dr 13,261 miles	£8,151
10 Reg Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Powershift 5dr 28,104 miles	£12,853	61 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi 16V Exclusive 5dr 15,603 miles	£9,535
12 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.6 EcoBoost Zetec [Start Stop] 5dr 33,537 miles	£10,643	09 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.8i VVT SRI [Exterior pack] 3dr 47,209 miles	£6,351
13 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Titanium Powershift 5dr 11,805 miles	£15,863	60 Reg Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V SE Auto 5dr 38,811 miles	£8,363
62 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium X Powershift 5dr 24,765 miles	£15,033	13 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4i 16V Sport 3dr 1,001 miles	£12,001
10 Reg Kia Picanto 1.0 1.5 5dr 12,476 miles	£4,531	61 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.6i 16V SRI 3dr 23,876 miles	£12,060
12 Reg Kia Picanto 1.0 2.5 5dr 16,208 miles	£7,704	13 Reg Vauxhall Cascado 2.0 CDTi SE 3dr 3,358 miles	£16,000
12 Reg Kia Venga 1.4 2 EcoDynamics 5dr 33,780 miles	£8,053	62 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active [AC] 5dr 2,314 miles	£8,201
10 Reg Mercedes Benz B-Class B180 CDI SE 5dr 19,959 miles	£9,823	62 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy [AC] 3dr 2,632 miles	£8,701
60 Reg Mercedes Benz C-Class 160 BlueEFFICIENCY Sport Auto 3dr 29,851 miles	£12,470	10 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi ecoFlex SE 5dr 14,032 miles	£6,724
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr 10,477 miles	£9,441	12 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE Auto 5dr 19,236 miles	£7,621
13 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr 5,757 miles	£13,612	61 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE Auto 5dr 25,442 miles	£7,482
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr Auto 11,657 miles	£9,663	62 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V [100] SRI [AC] 3dr 12,172 miles	£7,492
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr Auto 19,192 miles	£9,443	08 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design 3dr 38,134 miles	£4,715
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] 3dr 30,916 miles	£8,391	60 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.6i 16V SRI 5dr 36,039 miles	£7,873
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] 3dr 23,879 miles	£9,014	61 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i 16V SRI 5dr 35,464 miles	£8,853
60 Reg Mini One 1.6 3dr 10,742 miles	£8,893	09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i 16V SRI 5dr 5,479 miles	£6,982
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 13,234 miles	£11,971	09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE Auto 5dr 31,401 miles	£8,983
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 12,536 miles	£12,061	12 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI [160] 5dr 31,655 miles	£10,443
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 14,357 miles	£7,353	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI V-Line [160] 5dr 10,986 miles	£13,461
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 19,936 miles	£7,353	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI V-Line [195] 5dr 7,218 miles	£15,851
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11 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] N-Tec 5dr 25,668 miles	£12,660	61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusive 5dr 6,487 miles	£8,881
62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] N-Tec 5dr 13,513 miles	£14,271	11 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusive 5dr 6,302 miles	£8,393
60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr 22,221 miles	£10,032	10 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i [115] Energy 5dr 20,785 miles	£6,771
60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr 33,133 miles	£9,783	11 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design [110] 5dr 34,282 miles	£8,323
12 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 30,509 miles	£12,032	60 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Exclusive [120] 5dr 18,564 miles	£7,892
61 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 3,304 miles	£12,801	62 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi [165] Tech Line Auto 5dr 12,695 miles	£16,881
61 Reg Nissan Qashqai+2 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna 5dr 36,391 miles	£14,953	62 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr 17,381 miles	£16,121
60 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 92 Sport 5dr 20,244 miles	£7,713	57 Reg Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Luna 3dr 52,466 miles	£5,433
60 Reg Renault Grand Scenic 2.0 dCi Privilege TomTom Auto 5dr 11,645 miles	£9,573	10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 S 5dr 20,601 miles	£9,541
10 Reg Renault Megane 1.6 16V I-Music 5dr 7,055 miles	£6,522	09 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles	£7,203
60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 13,898 miles	£7,692	10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles	£8,381
60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 33,931 miles	£7,172	62 Reg Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 7,629 miles	£9,001
62 Reg SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE Copa 5dr 16,047 miles	£11,051	62 Reg Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 5,100 miles	£9,131

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